01

It is July 30th, 2025.

There's a heat wave — well, we're in a heat dome, which is a special thing, even worse than a normal heat wave.

Uh, we're going to be reading this fucking travesty right here. And I'm referring to it for travesty for a very specific reason. We got our copy from Goodwill when the first person who bought it originally, who kept it in very good condition — thank you for that — uh, it's it's like in perfect condition. It's just kind of crazy how good condition is.

Um, the poor person who bought this originally — um, you see how big this book is. Here's Is is it even thicker than my pinky? No. My pinky finger is thicker than this book.

And do I want to go get a ruler and literally measure it? Yeah, I will. BRB.

I'm going to measure it with my broken ruler, because I don't know where the other one is.

It's not even — clearly not even half an inch. Uh let's do with centimeters…. It's like, it's less than a centimeter.

This book is literally less than a centimeter.

And I'm saying that, um wait til I to show you the — or at least read you...[holds back of book up to camera to show the price tag, which the camera cannot focus on] Probably won't be able to focus on them…

The, the trade prices on the back of this book, that's less than a centimeter thick, and not like it was written for charity or anything where somebody writes a story and you pay a bunch of money for it because the point is not buying the story, the point is donating to charity — Which I guess I should mention —

Yeah, that would be a good idea.

Um, I am doing a thing where if you donate a dollar to any mutual aid fund, which can be any Palestinian relief fund, um, handing money to literally any homeless person, and I'll just take your word for it. Any, any kind of mutual aid.

If you donate a dollar, I will make a public domain character or an entire species with a design of your choice, which means you can like describe, I don't know, dragons with like six wings and etc. and I'll make it and it'll become public domain. Or for every dollar, what did I say? I think I said for every — Yeah. Every $1 you donate, I can also record 20 minutes of an audio book of your choice. It either has to be public domain or something that you own or like, I guess — Yeah. fanfiction that you have written or your friend wrote who wants an audio book or something like that. Yeah.

And uh if you donate at least $25, you can pick a public domain movie or cartoon or something and I will novelize it.

Uh 20 — I think my audio book for the King Kong thing that's public domain that came to about three something hours and has 40,000 words. I'm not doing that math…

But um okay, maybe next time I will just find something to read and I'll set a timer for 20 minutes and then I'll see how much of that I could read in 20 minutes.

Anyways, um the price is on the back of this book. So yeah, it — that was that I came up with that because I remembered that cuz talking about, like there's there's a whole bunch of books you can buy for charity where people write stories for charity. They're called charity anthologies, usually, there's a whole bunch of Doctor Who ones where people will just write fanfiction and then you donate to charity and you get a physical copy as a way to raise money for charity.

That's not what this book is, though.

This book that is less than a centimeter thick, and that's including like all the blank pages at this — there's at least three blank pages at the end.

Uh you want to know how much this book costs? The poor, poor, poor, poor soul who bought it the first time — Thank you for giving it to Goodwill so I could get it for $3.

This poor person paid $15.99 at the very least because that's the guide price and individual stores can go above that because when I bought book five with the last paycheck I ever got, because I was assuming that book five was going to be an actual novel, you know, like with everything that an actual novel can contain that you will be reading over and over again for the entire rest of your life.

Um, I paid $35 for that, but the guide price is like 25. So, Barnes & Noble or whatever the fuck I bought it from was charging an extra $10. And if if you happen to be in Canada, it's — [holding book up to camera again but it’s still out of focus]Can we focus on the damn thing?

No, it doesn't want to focus. Maybe you can read that.

Yeah, if you're in Canada, you would be you if you bought this new, you'd be paying $20.99.

And I can only presume that people who are trying to buy this now after the Apple TV that Martha Wells is shilling for has come out, I'm, I'm going to assume they're charging even more. $20 fucking, $15.99 brand new for a book less than a centimeter thick with 149 pages of story, and they didn't even like, fill up the whole page with as much text as possible.

So like they're — it's a scam is what I'm trying to say here. It's a fucking scam. People like to call it anti-capitalist robots in space, but it's, it's $16 minimum for a book less than a centimeter thick.

Should I go and get one of the Star Wars books? I think I'm going to.

You're just gonna sit here and stare at my beautiful cardboard again. I'll be right back.

[a minute or two later]

Alright, plan aborted. My twin keeps rearranging the bookshelves, so now I don't know where the Star Wars books are. I was going to show you Outbound Flight and check what the price was for that originally.

But anyways, I can give you an another example from memory. You just have to trust me and or look it up. What the fuck is his name? Dude writing under the pseudonym Christopher Pike, which if you're a Star Wars — er, Star Trek nerd, you might be like, "Hey, wait, like the captain?" Yes, the equivalent of somebody writing under these the pseudonym Jean Luc Peard.

The author Christopher Pike was writing a story about a vampire named Sita and she's ~the coolest vampire ever and God loves her~ and just keeps letting her get away with fucking crimes that he's told her, "Stop doing that. Stop doing that. This is the last time. Stop doing that” and then she just keeps doing it, and he just keeps going “fine I guess you can get

away with it this time, but stop doing it” and then she just keeps doing it.

Like — also that man hates physically disabled people, and so much more and it's like — dude — like the writing was so bad and just going in this — just doing the same thing over and over again, but pretending ~it's totally different this time~ that I as this fucking high schooler got sick of it and gave up on it because he was just so bad at writing.

But anyways, uh we bought one of his books that was this thick [holding hands several inches apart] from what the fuck is that...the bookstore that closed that doesn't exist anymore. Like Blockbuster but for books. I don't remember what it's called anymore.

But uh, we bought that, and that was $10. That was three books shoved into one like this [holding up anthology], but out to here, [pulling hand away from the anthology to show how large the other book was] like to the point that it couldn't fit in my backpack if I wanted to have my textbooks with me.

So, yes, we are just starting the first 10 minutes of this with me just complaining about the size of it because this is a fucking scam.

$16 plus tax, plus whatever extra markup the individual seller wants to charge for this, for a book less than a centimeter thick — and that's with blank pages at the start, and the end and text that's not even filling as much of the page as possible.

That's a fucking scam. Especially if you are going to go around pretending to be anti-capitalist and claim that you hate corporate greed. But you *are* corporate greed. You are.

Especially now that Martha Wells is actively shilling for Apple, the evil corporation that these books are supposed to be against, but only if they aren't paying you, apparently, because Martha Wells is literal — literally a white supremacist sellout.

She's been telling everybody that Murderbot is a person of color. But as soon as Apple offers her that sweet sweet white supremacy money, she's like, "Yes,

give me that. I will tell poor people to subscribe to your shitty fucking TV service.”

Anyways, we're going to actually start reading this now.

[phone dings, narrator squints at the camera]

Says we have a package delivered. Do I really want to go outside and get it? I guess I will. I'll actually pause it this time though.

[video stops, begins again]

I'm back and I regret everything. My god, it's so fucking hot and humid out.

Anyways, um we're going to actually start reading that — well, I'm going to read it and you're going to get to see my reactions.

...Unless we want to do the thing where I read each paragraph and then spend 30 minutes expl —

— That's actually what is probably going to happen, because the first paragraph in here is so, so loaded with bigotry, it's unbelievable.

And it's like, it's, it's ,this is Martha Wells telling you exactly how she views the world. We're gonna — Yeah, we're just gonna do that, because just you wait until you see this first paragraph.

Actually, wait. Let's read the summary.

> In a corporate dominated space fairing future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company

with a capital C.

> Exploratory teams are accompanied by company supplied security androids.

Oh, we're lying to people. Explicitly lying to me. Oh my god, this is the first time I've ever read the official summary. This is so funny. Um, I, I, I'm so — at this point I've just been so conditioned to think that

there's nothing on the back of the book besides fucking ~oh, this story is so great~ or ~best-selling author thingyamajig~. I'd never actually looked at this before. That's hilarious.

So, we're explicitly lying to people on the back of the book. These characters are not androids. They are cyborgs. Martha Wells has confirmed this. They are cyborgs.

The difference between an android and a cyborg: Data from Star Trek is an android. Luke Skywalker is a cyborg. Data was built artificially entirely. Luke Skywalker was born and then later given cybernetic things. Murderbot is a cyborg. All of the, the quote unquote “sec units” and “comfort units”, they're all cyborgs.

They're real people — real human people who are mutilated at birth to give them cybernetic augments and dehumanized to justify enslaving them.

But we're just saying that they're androids on the back of the book because Martha Wells is many

things, um coherent politically — I mean, no, it's not, it's not even incoherent, it’s racism and white supremacy and ableism all mixed together.

Anyways, uh

> exploratory teams are accompanied by company supplied security androids for their own safety. But in a society where contracts are awarded to the

Huh.

> But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.
>
> On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests shadowed by their circum by their company supplied droid, a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module and refers to itself, though never out loud, as Murderbot.

> Scornful of humans, all it really wants to is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their murderbot to get to the truth.

[flabbergasted beyond words at all the lies] Like that is — I mean that's...that's that sure is a fucking summary. That's. That. Sure is something. Just calling Murderbot a droid. It's like... all right. That's that sure is something.

I mean, way to double down on the dehumanization that is explicitly happening in-universe and then it's never going to be revealed that that's what's happening, because that would require actually giving a shit. [still flabbergated beyond words] Um, yeah, that's that's fucking, that sure as hell is something.

Cover art by Jamie Jones[].

Cover design by Christine Christine Folzer[].

Also, I got to say, I've, I've stared at this cover for years now, and I only realized very recently that those are trees behind Murderbot.

Like, this whole time I thought the whole thing is that like — the scene from the I, Robot movie where Sonny is standing in the room, the warehouse of the other robots.

And I thought this whole fucking time, despite staring at this repeatedly in detail, it just literally never occurred to me. I'm like,

"Oh yeah, that's that's just a that's just an out of focus background of a sea of other SecUnits in armor to show that Murderbot is just one of many and just got lucky to have a fucked up governor module, right?"

But no, those are trees. Those are just trees. Those are the, the, the trees that don't actually matter that we don't really get a description of.

We just get told that uh, the evil people's uh, base camp is surrounded by these super skinny tall trees

so that they can see in all directions cuz the trees don't really block your view cuz they're super skinny.

Yeah, those are trees in the background, not just like a — like, the way that's — those are supposed to be the rings of the planet that they are on.

Yes, we are just doing this for the first like probably 20 minutes of the video.

Those are supposed to be the rings on the planet that never actually get described in a way that's memorable. But like, the way that it's — the way the light is just reflecting off of Murderbot's helmet and just the fact that it's so out of focus, it just really gives the impression that Murderbot is in a giant room with a curved ceiling, and those are other SecUnits surrounding it just out of focus because Murderbot is one among many.

But no, they're trees, and those are planetary rings. So, like, um, good job Jamie Jones for doing some pretty art. Uh, like, but the person who designed it and told you what to do. Um, whichever one of you

fucked up this badly that I'm prob — I'm definitely not the only person to misinterpret this so drastically.

Uh, you got to have more distinct design. Like, maybe put some fucking color in those trees? Put some fucking color in the sky. Put some color in that.

Like, it's not my fault I completely misinterpreted this despite staring at it so much. Like, I literally spent the entire time going, "Yeah, those those are those are totally just other people, right?" No, they're trees.

Anyways, also another complaint. Murderbot is always shown in this armor on the cover art, even after it literally never gets access to this kind of armor ever again. And it's just like — the official art omnibus that nobody can afford, uh that's also not even for charity — despite like, you can be creative and show Murder — No, it's all because of the racism.

Because if Murderbot is wearing armor, then we can just let everybody project what they think Murderbot should look like.

Also, do you see how that lighting perfectly matches up with the trees? It's all just making it indistinct, and it's not good. It's not good art. That's just bad art design. Like, it's making it — it's actively making you not want to look closer to see what the hell is going on, which is why I've literally thought since — when did I start reading these books?

2020 something. 2021, I think. Maybe 2020. I don't remember. I'll have to check my blog.

Anyways, um yeah, you can just draw Murderbot in different outfits without showing its face and just have it in creative fun poses that throwing a [holds arm in front of face to demonstrate] just happens to be turning away, just make it a running thing.

We could have so much fun with the cover art, but we're not doing that, because that would require Martha Wells to actually commit to her statements that Murderbot is a person of color by getting artists to draw it as a person of color on the official books.

But she doesn't want to do that, because she wants the plausible deniability so that when Apple pays her however the hell much they're paying her to sell out to them, she can gleefully accept their white supremacy money to gleefully shill for the people whitewashing her own protagonist.

Anyways, yeah, we're 20 minutes and 10 seconds in. Let's read paragraph one. Let's do that together. And then we're going to spend another half an hour discussing paragraph one.

> Chapter one.
> I could have become a mass murderer after I hacked my governor module, but then I realized I could access the combined feed of entertainment channels carried on the company satellites. It had been well over 35,000 hours or so since then with still not much murdering, but probably I don't know a little under 35,000 hours of movies, serials, books, plays, and music consumed. As a heartless killing machine, I was a terrible failure.

That's paragraph one.

And it really ill — it's very illustrative of Martha Wells's view on slavery and how slaves act, because what she *thinks* she's doing by saying that is poking fun at racist propaganda, but she's just doing the racist propaganda instead.

Because Murderbot isn't saying “haha all the humans think that, um, that we're just violent mindless those killing machines”.

I don't, I don't even remember what the start of that sentence I just said was.

She's not having Murderbot laugh about that because Murderbot doesn't think that's true.

She's having Murderbot say that because it thinks that because Martha Wells thinks that's fucking true, and has Murderbot agree with her.

And Murderbot frames itself, because Martha Wells is framing it, as One of The Good Ones, because every

single other slave on this fucking planet in this story ends up getting murdered by the good guys, and we're just supposed to be completely fine with it because Martha Wells is racist.

As I have said many, many, many, many, many, many times and will keep saying until people get it through their fucking racist heads:

It is literally not possible to be actually truly anti-racist and anti-slavery and write a story like All Systems Red.

It's physically fucking impossible for somebody who actually understands how horrific slavery is to sit down and even think about writing a book with the plot that you will fucking see in here, let alone write it all out as a first draft, presumably edit it. We fucking hope.

It really is — I — Yeah, it really does not seem like Martha Wells is actually editing her first drafts. It seems like she's literally just shitting out a first draft

and then sending that off to the publisher to edit, or not, as their fucking whims dictate.

As you've all seen from Rapport this with the fanfiction-y obnoxious title that people give their stories when they can't think of anything else to name it, where there are so many blatant typos including a missing space between two words that still, as of today, July 30th 2025, when this short story was published July 10th, it's been 20 fucking days from these supposedly professional publishers their traditional publishers that ~Oh, they do quality control. That's why they're so expensive.~

20 whole fucking days now and they still have not fixed any of the blatant typos on the short story that they are claiming that they've professionally edited. Go to reactormag.com slash martha-wells slash rapport?

I might be getting that wrong, but I was just looking at that link earlier. That might be the correct URL. Might not be. I don't know. Just Google it, it'll show up.

Um, yeah, just Ctrl+F and then type out “shehonestly”. One word. Is it, is that fucking typo still in there despite being so goddamn blatant that a 12-year-old would spot it and fix it if they had the ability?

Yeah.

Yeah.

20 days after this was published for thousands of people to read, they still haven't fixed it.

It would take like maybe 10 minutes maximum, but they're just not doing it, because they don't give a shit.

They don't care about quality, they just want money. This book on Kindle was originally getting sold for $2 as opposed to $16 for a physical fucking — this is a paperback, by the way, not a hard cover. It's not even a hard cover, it's a paperback. And also the, the, the hard covers of the other books in this series, they have the most disgusting fucking texture on the um,

the, the dust jacket. It's like disgusting. I don't even want to touch it, which is why I haven't made these videos. Um I'm going to take it off for recording them. It's just disgusting.

Anyways, um what was I saying besides like —

Yeah, we'll just get into it because like this first paragraph, this is just, it's, it's Martha Wells telling you that she thinks that if you give slaves freedom, they will just want to murder everybody, because it's — this isn't commentary on the in-universe propaganda.

This is what Martha Wells actually believes. And you know the difference between this being in-universe propaganda and what Martha Wells actually believes and wants us to believe? You know what makes that difference?

If this was just just in-universe propaganda, then every other slave in this fucking story, and almost every single other slave in the entire seven books and 11 short stories published for this fucking series, they

wouldn't all wind up getting murdered by the protagonists and presented as rabid fucking animals that need to be put down for the safety of the precious precious pure cinnamon roll slave owners.

That's that's what makes this shitty first paragraph reflective of Martha Wells's actual fucking values as a person and what fucking message she's actually putting out with this book series, because she's not bringing up ~haha the, the, the racists that are enslaving us uh, tell everybody that we're just mindless serial killers~ and then they're not, they're just fucking oppressed people fighting for equality who deserve the right to fight for their fucking freedom.

Instead, it's “Yeah, that's true for everybody except me, because I'm different. I'm One of The Good Ones.”

This is like — if Martha Wells were actually anti-racist and actually against slavery as a concept, this whole entire book would not literally be dedicated to a slave throwing itself into harm's way and attempting to kill

itself multiple times to save the lives of its precious, precious, pure cinnamon roll slave owners ~who just didn't realize that slavery was wrong, they don't have robots where they come from. How were they supposed to know that Murderbot was a person and that it's wrong to treat it as an object?~

You, as you'll have noticed if you've read the rest of the series, a thing that's a blatant fucking lie because they do have robots where they come from, and they do acknowledge that they are people.

And again, Martha Wilds is just so fucking shit at writing that she doesn't she doesn't just reread the shit she's already written to make sure she's not contradicting herself.

So, the PreservationAux team are just inherently already horrible people for going out of their way to rent out a fucking slave for a thing they literally don't need to be doing.

And then she made them even worse people retroactively in this fucking book, where they claim

that they just, they, ~oh they, they didn't know Murderbot was a person. They don't they just don't have people like you, we don't have people like you in our gated community on our in our socialist gated community. We just had no clue you were a person.~

And it's like — and then — and then we see Preservation later in the series.

And yeah, they, they were just lying to Murderbot's face.

That's what's — that's what they're doing in this book now, because of what Martha Wells decided to write later without double-checking what she fucking wrote in here. They're just lying to Murderbot's face.

Anyways, um let's actually fucking try to read some shit, 29 minutes and 11 seconds into the fucking video.

> I could have become a mass murderer

I'm not reading that whole paragraph. Well, I guess I will.

> I could have become a mass murderer after I hacked my governor module. But then I realized I could access the combined feed of entertainment channels carried on the company's satellites.

Satellites plural, just for a fucking note.

> It had been well over 35,000 hours or so since then, which translates to about four years in Earth time with still not much murdering, but probably, I don't know, a little under 35,000 hours of movies, serials, books, plays, and music consumed. As a heartless killing machine, I was a terrible failure.

All right, that's paragraph one. Now, are you prepared for paragraph two?

> I was also still doing my job

Because even when Martha Wells is talking to other people or even herself in interviews outside of the story, she still is downplaying what slavery actually fucking is. She's saying, she's literally having Murderbot refer to being enslaved as a meatshield as just a job.

A job, as though being literal property as a meatshield, in this fucking instance — Murderbot's entire fucking purpose is to be a meatshield — as though that's equivalent to a job that is boring, because that's how she consistently frames slavery in this series.

Despite this not being a — it's not a series about somebody in space who has a really boring job they don't like. It's about slavery. Fucking people dehumanized, mutilated at birth, mutilated at birth, dehumanized to justify enslaving them and then used as fucking meatshields or sex slaves.

And it's like — and, and she just constantly it's it's a very fucking white thing to do because oh, also she's

from Texas. She's not just she's not just a racist white woman. She's literally from Texas.

It's like, okay, so congrats on fulfilling the fucking stereotype that everybody from all the white people from Texas are racist. It's like, yeah, you and I keep seeing her in interviews complaining that the rest of the writing community keeps disappointing her. And it's like, all right, with everything that I have ever seen that you have written, and I have read all but eight stories of hers out of I think 44, I have a list. I've made a list.

I know, I know how she responds to criticism, and it's to double down on what she's doing and make up a caricature of whoever criticized her, and then putting that caricature in her books to show and portray as being stupid or a mentally ill serial killer.

That's what she does.

And it's like, all right, so Martha Wells, when you say that the, the “the writing community keeps disappointing you”, and that you don't feel like you're

part of it, is it because the rest of the writing community, um, points out the bigotry that you're putting in your work, and instead of listening to them, you caricaturize them and put them in your story to make fun of them?

Is it because the rest of the writing community has tried to explain to you multiple times how to how pronouns work, basic pronouns, literal grammatical pronouns work, and that you should not be having two separate characters talking and acting within the same paragraph where there's dialogue?

Is it because you refuse to change and grow as a person or a writer? So, every time somebody tries to explain to you how to better do what you are trying and failing to accomplish, you just double down and insist that they're fucking stupid because, uh you don't need to know how pronouns work and it's it, “if you think the Fell are racist or evil be just because I wrote them as literal racist caricatures, I bet that thinks you think that fucking British colonizers were evil”.

And it's like, like, Martha Wells would literally rather defend the original British colonizers, the people who actively did multiple fucking genocides, then just admit that she used racist tropes in The Books of the Raksura in 2011.

She literally made the villains of that fucking series every racist caricature you can fucking think of. All of them. They are — they want to go around raping people. They're cannibals. She tells us so many times that they are butt fucking ugly and — because they all have black scales, and they're ugly and like all but saying they have bullet shaped fucking heads.

Um, and then they have secret beautiful white skinned, ethereally beautiful, magically beautiful white-skinned forms that they use to trick people into thinking they're actually good.

Because white people are just so ethereally beautiful that everybody thinks they're beautiful, but actually secretly they're the evil black-skinned ugly bullet shaped-headed demons who want to rape and cannibalize you.

And it's just like. She literally just made them every single racist caricature that has ever existed in all of propaganda throughout history, including fantasy and sci-fi.

She just did all of the caricaturizations and then made those the villains and then has then just refused to accept any fucking criticism for this, and it — literally spent a decade ignoring every single fucking essay explaining that this is messed up. This is fucking racist.

And spent literally a decade ignoring all criticism only to cherrypick two reviews that defend her racist writing by defending British colonization. I'm not even making that up. I could not have fucking imagined that scenario if you fucking paid me to think of the most ridiculous fucking defense for a book series ever.

She literally found two reviews by the same person defending her against the, the basic racism that is in her series that people with morals point out by saying that if you think Martha Wells made the Fell

inherently evil, which they literally are, she literally has one of the beloved characters suggest doing eugenics on them to “breed out the evil”, then that's as absurd as saying that British colonizers were evil.

And it's like, yeah, British colonizers were evil. That's not up for debate.

The only way you can think they're not evil is if you're literally a white supremacist.

And at this point, Martha Wells just is, because she's literally shilling for Apple TV. Apple, while they whitewash her protagonist. And she tells poor people to to waste their grocery money subscribing to Apple, the people whitewashing her own character while she's still continuing to double down on the slavery apologism and genocide apologism now in this whole entire fucking series, it's like she's just a white supremacist. There's only so many fucking white supremacist things you can do before you're just a fucking white supremacist and that's the only thing left to call you.

If you've seen my videos about Witch King, she literally made up an entire group of fantasy indigenous people, heavily coded as Native Americans, and she made up she made them up just so that she could pin *her* obsession with pedophilia and eugenics on them. to then claim, explicitly and implicitly, but mostly explicitly through dialogue within the story, that if you think pedophilia and eugenics and trafficking children to use as brood mares for a eugenics program, if you think that is horrifying, um, then you're the real racist, and also, you probably support genocide, because she decided that her fantasy Native American people that she made up literally just to endorse eugenics and pedophilia, um, she had them get genocided, somehow “entirely” because they they — it's not like there's a diaspora or anything.

Um, she she had them be successfully genocided by people who were upset about them literally making deals with devils, a thing they actually were doing.

So, she's, she's — it's, it's horrible every every which fucking way you look at it.

Anyways, now we're we're still on paragraph two.

All that came from “I was still doing my job” because Martha Wells thinks framing being literal enslaved property — that's what chat — that, that's what the chattel in chattel slavery means. It means you're property, because there's many forms of slavery. Chattel slavery means you are literal property. You have no civil rights. You are property.

And, and Martha Wells thinks framing being enslaved as just — being enslaved to be a meatshield, an expendable meatshield whose sole purpose is to jump in between your slave owners, the people renting you out, and whatever danger is threatening them — that's that's what Murderbot is enslaved to do.

And Martha Wells has decided that we're just going to frame that as “doing a job” and that's it. And then even in 2025 in interviews, she's still just referring to it as “a job”. Doing a job, nothing else. Hold on. I have to turn the fucking light on. It's dark.

[the lights in the room turn on]

She literally — she's literally just downplaying slavery every single fucking time she talks about it. Even when it's not in-universe and there's no excuses for her, like an in-universe excuse for her to be doing this.

Like there are some instances where it would make sense for characters to not be to not be referring to slavery as slavery. There's only very specific circumstances where that works though.

And it doesn't fucking work when you, the author, are talking about your shit in an interview out of universe as the fucking writer, you should be calling it slavery because that's what it fucking is.

But then even in Rapport, the new book with characters none of whom who have ever — there should be zero — there is no reason for the characters in Rapport to ever be just refusing to say slavery and call it what it is.

But even there, we're still downplaying it and pretending it's “Oh, it's just a job. It's it's totally like

working at fucking Walmart or something. Totally the same thing.”

> I was also still doing my job on a new contract and hoping Doctor Volescu and Doctor Bharadwaj finished their survey soon so we could get back to the habitat and I could watch episode 397 of Rise and Fall of Sanctuary Moon.

So yeah, that's chapter that's paragraph two. And it's like, also there's eight named slave owner characters in this story.

And again, I am going to repeat myself: if this story were actually written by somebody who's not fucking racist and not just a literal white supremacist — there's no other word for her at this point. She's had literally 20 fucking years to accept any of the criticism that the fucking racist caricatures in The Books of the Raksura brought her.

She's just doubled down endlessly forever. And she's just going to keep doing that until she dies.

She does not want to become a better person.

She does not want to ever admit that she's wrong.

She's a white supremacist and she's just going to be a white supremacist until she dies, because she doesn't want to change, because that would require changing and growing as a person, a thing she thinks is impossible simply because she refuses to admit that she was fucking racist and used racist caricatures.

Yeah. If this story were written by somebody who actually thinks slavery is bad, um Doctor Bharadwaj and Volescu would literally die in this chapter.

...There's a little bug. [blows the bug off the book]

Uh, Doctor Bharadwaj and Doctor Volescu would die in this chapter, getting eaten by the totally-not-a-graboid and Murderbot would be like,

"Oh, damn. I wasn't expecting good news today, but damn, that's great. I'm fine with this. Let me just hack the whatever fuck — whatever logs there are here to

make it seem like I'm trying to help, but just ~oh so so tragically unable to get there in time.~ Like damn, two out of fucking eight slave owners are already dead. They just got themselves killed and I didn't even have to do anything.”

Like that's how this would be going if this story were actually anti-slavery because you can't — because you can't be anti-slavery and think that slave owners deserve to live and are pure cinnamon rolls who deserve to be rescued while they are actively enslaving someone.

Those are two mut — those are in fact mutually exclusive fucking opinions to have.

You cannot think that slavery is bad, actually truly fucking horrific, but then also think that the slave owners deserve to live.

Slave owners should die. All slave owners. Yes. Including your favorite characters that the white woman from Texas made ambiguously Black and brown specifically to go, "Oh, well, um, you can't be

mad at them for being slave owners. They're not white, so that means it's not racism.”

And it's like, no, we can tell what you're fucking doing. The Animorphs did this, too. So many fucking things do this, too. You're literally not different from fucking Disney making Marvel movies where they make the villains black and scary black and brown people who who say…

….um, I don't remember off the top of my head. I just forgot.

Anyways, it's it's literally just more racism, not less.

Uh yeah, Doctor Volescu and Doctor Bard should fucking die in this scene and that should be treated as a good thing that Murderbot is happy about. And because I —

I don't know how to explain to you people that you can't be anti-racist and write a story where you expect people to mourn the deaths of slave owners.

You can't do those things. Sorry. Sorry. You don't actually have fucking morals or actually think slavery is bad.

That's how this works.

It, it truly is.

Anyways,

> I admit I was distracted. It was a boring contract so far and I was thinking about backburnering the status alert channel and trying to access music on the entertainment feed without HubSystem logging the extra activity. It was trickier to do it in the field than it was in the habitat.

Also, I'll just say ahead of time, Martha Wells keeps complaining about the stories where robots go rogue and just start trying ~attacking people for no reason~. And it's like, it's not no reason. They always have some fucking reason. And it's usually a very

good fucking reason when you look at it from their perspective.

Um, yeah, she keeps complaining about shit like that, but then she literally does that exact fucking thing in here, with HubSystem.

HubSystem in this is the robot that ~goes rogue and starts trying to kill people for no reason~. But then we're just not supposed to acknowledge that that's what's going on. The thing that she claims that — the trope she claims she hates, but she's literally doing it unironically.

And it's like, okay, well, you you do realize you're a fucking hypocrite, right?

She doesn't, because that would require using critical thinking skills.

> This assessment zone was a barren stretch of coastal island with low flat hills rising and falling and thick greenish black grass up to my ankles. Not much in the way of flora

You just described grass up to your ankles. I don't know about any of you people, but have you ever looked at grass? Have you ever looked at a fucking lawn? Maybe not like a, a golf course lawn. Go outside if you have grass and look at your grass. Do you know how many different species there are of grass mixed together in most lawns? And most of some of it's not even grass.

Like “there's not much in the way of flora” despite me mentioning that we are on a coastal island with — covered in plants as far as the eye can see, because we don't mention any parts that are not covered in plants.

And also it just it doesn't seem like Martha Wells understands how ecosystems work.

> Not much in the way of flora or fauna except a bunch of different sized birdlike things and some puffy floaty things that were harmless as far as we knew.

So they're different sizes which means they're probably different species and none of them get descriptions.

And all of the people insisting that “oh this is just because um, Marth — Murderbot wouldn't care about any of these things!!! It's not Martha Wells's it's not a problem with Martha Wells's writing. It's just it's just characterized narration!!!”

It's like, no it's not. Go read Witch King. Go read The Books of the Raksura.

This is why I've been complaining that her writing hasn't improved since the fucking 90s.

> The coast was dotted with big bare craters. one of which Bharadwaj and Volescu

Also, it's very annoying that we refer to them first as *Doctor* Bharadwaj and *Doctor* Volescu, but then they just drop the doctor from their names, and it's, and it's — these are their last names, and we don't know most of their first names, and it's just like.

It's just fucking weird and annoying and especially in the, the new story, Rapport ‘insert obnoxiously long fanfiction title because it's written shittily like fanfiction’ um, she has the protagonist referring to her own fathers by their first names in the fucking narration. It is literally only in dialogue that we get the reveal that those are her fucking parents.

That's not how people think. That's not how your narration should work. It's just so bad.

And in this, we're doing the same fucking thing. In dialogue, at least in this book, all of these people are referred to as Doctor Insert-Last-Name. But in the narration, it's just their last name. It's like, you need to have consistency.

Unless a character is specifically calling people the wrong names in their head on purpose to make fun of them, but then using their correct name out loud, which is one thing.

Um, this is just bad writing because it's inconsistent for no good fucking reason. And that's especially

obvious in Rapport where the fucking protagonist is referring to her parents by their first names and giving zero indication through that narration that they're her parents.

> The coast was dotted with big bare craters, one of which Bharadwaj and Volescu were taking samples in. The planet had a ring which from our current position dominated the horizon when you looked out to sea. I was looking at the sky and mentally poking at the feed when the bottom of the crater exploded.

Yeah, that's that ring that like never gets described ever again. And we don't even get a proper description of it. Like we don't even get to know what color it is. We don't know what color this fucking sky is. We get no proper descriptions of anything. We get told the grass is blue black or green and black.

What, what was it? Can I flip backwards, page, please? Thank you.

> Thick greenish black grass

Like, imagine if this story was about Murderbot getting stranded on this fucking planet and just learning to live with the wildlife and shit. Imagine that. and learning that it can in fact do something besides be a meatshield and can actually enjoy its fucking life. But no, we got to do slavery apologism instead.

> I was looking at the sky and mentally poking at the feed when the bottom of the crater exploded.

That's paragraph….it really doesn't want to let me turn the page back. Gosh. One, two, three, four. That was paragraph four, which started on page one —

Oh, what?!?!?!

What are you fucking talking about????

Oh, these fucking —

These fucking cheaters.

Holy shit!

That's fucking —

What the fuck is this shit?!!

Oh my god!

Okay, look!

1. Cover,
2. blank page that just says All Systems Red,
3. we got a list of other books she'd published before this.
4. Continues on to the next page. Okay. Okay.
5. A blank page.
6. We get the title. The Murderbot Diaries. Martha Wells. Tom Dohertie Associates Book New York. Well, fuck you, Tom Dhertie, whoever the hell you are.

7. Um, copyright blah.

8. Another blank page that just says All Systems Red at the top.

And then chapter one. Do you see what they're doing here? Look what —

That's page nine!

They are numbering chapter 1, page one, as page nine!

So this is not — how many pages did I fucking say it was? This is not — Oh my god. They are — They're number — Oh my god, these fucking cheaters!

They're literally continuing to number the pages that aren't the actual story, including the first few pages that are in every fucking book! They're counting the copyright page as a page! They're counting the two blank title pages as pages so that they can pretend that this book has more pages of story than it actually does!

There are not actually 149 pages of story in here! There are 140 because they are fucking artificially starting page one on page nine. Oh my fucking god!

Also, while we're on the topic of scams, when they were selling this as an ebook, they weren't telling people how long it was. Especially not now. They're still not telling people how long it is when they're charging extra money, because they increased the price because of the Apple shilling that they're doing. Oh my god.

People had no clue that they were buying a book that's less than a centimeter thick for the same price that you could literally go and buy an actual fucking novel for.

Oh my god. I didn't even notice while reading page one. They're literally starting the count on nine. Jesus Fucking Christ. Oh my god. Like there's so many bl — and, and then on top of that, there's one — how many blank pages at the back of this?

We have that — one blank page, two blank page, three blank page, four blank page, [voice increasing in volume] five blank page, six blank page, seven blank pages at the back of the book!

And they start the page count on nine. That's when they are starting the story. So, literally, oh my god. Oh my fucking god.

It is such a scam.

And then Martha Wells has the gall to pretend that she hates corporate greed when she is doing the corporate greed.

Because here's a secret, everybody. Nobody is forcing Martha Wells at gunpoint to publish with tour publisher.

She made that decision herself.

She is the one doubling down endlessly on this shit, literally scamming people and lying about the fucking page numbers in this fucking book and then putting

seven whole entire blank pages at the back of the book to try and buff out that less than a centimeter page count as much as fucking possible. Oh my god.

Literally starting — we're — we're just —

So literally page two. We're pretending that's 10 pages into the fucking story so that they can literally claim that —

Oh my god they are they are fucking scammers, Tor, which used to be called Reactor — No it's — yeah it used it was called Tor when they published this. They're now called Reactor because I guess um — yeah this is from Macmillian Publishing Group. It's one of their trademarks.

Yeah, they're fucking scammers and have been from the start. And this is just —

I've never seen anybody else talk about the fact that the story —

They're literally claiming that the first nine fucking pages that are not the fucking story.

It's just —

[holds up book] I'm, I'm doing it again. You have to fucking suffer with me.

[listing off each page before the story starts] All Systems Red. That's all it says. List of other books that she's written. And they they went with font so large so that they could stretch that, and didn't fill this gap down here, and didn't fill this gap up here, specifically so that they could pretend that there's more stories here that it's worth printing this on two different pages. Look how big the spaces between those lines are. They could have they could have fucking put this —

Oh my god. They could have fit all of this shit on one page, but they purposefully spread it out to two to inflate the page count.

And then the back of that page is blank.

And then we just get the name of the book again.

And that, and then the next one is the copyright.

And then another fucking blank page just for the fucking title.

And then another blank page.

And then it's chapter one.

And then there's seven blank pages at the back of the book.

Oh my god.

But yeah, um, um, fuck that. We're on page two. They're calling it page 10, but it's page two. Oh my god. Oh my fucking god. Jesus fucking Christ.

Um, for the record, I would rather like commit murder, multiple murders, than do something like this with my own writing.

And if anybody ever suggested doing a scam like this with my writing, I would pick up my computer, and I would beat the person who suggested it to death, and then I would blow up their publishing company.

What. No. My god, we're on page two. It's not page 10. It's page two. When you're not a fucking

— Oh my god. This is so fucking ridiculous. We are on page two.

This is paragraph five. Paragraph five. Because paragraph four was also again, [holding up book, pointing to the large margin at the bottom] you see the — the amount of gap at the bottom of the fucking page? I wish I knew where the Star Wars books were put or I could be showing you a fucking counter example. Do you see how much space they're leaving at the, the fucking bottom of the page and the top of the page and the side of the page?

Like there is — it's good to have a margin, you don't need to have this big of a fucking margin.

It's — the only reason it's like this is is to artificially inflate the amount of pages that this book takes up to get it to less than a centimeter.

What the — what would this fucking look like if it were actually printed with like, economy in mind? Actually fitting as many words onto each page as is possible to make it a reasonable fucking price for a book?

And like, no, that's not — $16 for this shit is not a reasonable price.

No matter which way you fucking look at it.

It would be a reasonable price if it were filled with extremely HD detailed color photos because it's like some kind of fucking, I don't know, encyclopedia or something.

Um, this is just text that they are stretching out as far as they can fucking get it and literally lying about what page you're on to convince you, if you look at

the back of the fucking book, that there's more pages of story than there actually are.

They're literally — they are literally counting her fucking stupid little blurb as as a page that's in the story itself and then there's seven blank pages at the back. My fucking god.

Let's read the last par — line in paragraph 4.

> I was looking at the sky and mentally poking at the feed when the bottom of the crater exploded.

And this is where — I mean, first paragraph just needs to be thrown entirely into the fucking dumpster. But if we ignore the existence of the first paragraph for five seconds, this is where an actually anti-slavery story by somebody who actually thinks slavery is horrific would diverge entirely and never be the same again.

Um, because what we get next is Murderbot throwing itself in the line of fire, throwing itself literally into a

graboid. It's not a graboid, but I'm calling it a graboid. Go watch the Tremors movies. They're actually good. Don't watch the last one, though, it’s fucking racist.

Even though the first few literally were not racist and were going out of their way to not be racist and then then that one came out and they're like, "Oh, we can be racist now. It's racism is good, right? Let's just do some racism for no reason because we can. It's not like any It's not like the other movies exist or anything.”

Go watch the Tremors movies. It might make you paranoid about stepping on the ground for a bit, but who gives a shit? It's good. Just play the floor as lava and you'll have fun.

Anyways, um yeah, anybody who was actually writing an anti-racist story would have murder — Murderbot watch the two slave owners, its two literal slave owners, people who went —

I've never read The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. I don't even properly know what it is. Is it a series? Is it a single book? Is it like set up like an actual little encyclopedia like those dragon Dragonology books things? Is it just a regular novel? I don't fucking know. B

ut I know there's some quote in it that I've seen two people reference where it's like

“Space is big. Space is really really really really really really big. Big doesn't even begin to describe it. Space is fucking big.”

Do you know how long and how many resources and how much effort it takes to go from one solar system to another? Even in science fiction like this? It takes a lot of fucking effort. And the Preservation ox team went multiple solar systems out of their way, so far out of their way, they left their little socialist utopia where they just do slavery — “But don't don't don't think about that at all. It's a, it's a socialist utopia! Ignore the slavery!”

They went solar systems out of their way to go into the corporation rim for no fucking reason at all to rent out a slave for a thing that is so inconsequential, we don't even — we literally still, in July 2025, don't have an explanation for what the fuck they were even doing here that they think any of it could ever possibly justify becoming slave owners.

Because yes you fucking, oh my god, you racist sacks of shit in this fandom trying to defend Martha Wells, it is racism if you rent out a slave. You go out of your fucking way to rent out a fucking slave. You're a slave owner now. Congratulations. The fucking technicality of:

“Oh, well, we're just *renting* the slave. It's not like we're — It's not like we *bought them*. It's not like *we* enslaved them. We're just renting them to use as a meatshield! Why are you getting mad at me? I'm just a victim here!”

This is literally what people in this fandom are spewing. They're literally saying, "Well, it's it's totally fine to rent out a slave, um, because I mean you're not

the one who enslaved them. It's not like you're *buying* a slave. You're just *renting them out*. Just because you're — you you rented out a slave to use as a meatshield, it doesn't mean — you're, you're not responsible for that slavery! You're just personally benefiting from it from paying money to use a person as a meatshield as your slave!!!”

And people are trying to pretend that the PreservationAux team aren't inherently monstrous fucking people for doing this.

And then the book doesn't even try to justify it. It just expects us to not give a shit, because we're told that they are pure cinnamon rolls “who just ~didn't know that slaves were people~ so, you can't blame them or be upset with them in any way for renting out a slave to use as a meatshield on a mission that they don't need to be on.”

If you've watched me play Alien: Isolation, you may have seen the dawning realization as I play Alien: Isolation of,

"Oh, this is just shitty Alien fanfiction. That's why they're — that's that's why this is going on. It's just shitty Alien fanfiction. Why are they on a survey planet? Because that's what happens in in Alien movies." That's it. That's why even — and why are there eight fucking people? Because that's what happens in an Alien movie!

But the difference between an Alien movie and this is that Alien movies have a bunch of characters —

I fucking forget the names of the two obnoxious ones about the ancient aliens bullshit, one of them was more explicitly about the ancient aliens bullshit than the other one.

It was either Prometheus or Covenant. I don't...I can't fucking tell them apart. They're both take place on the... LV427 before Alien happens.

Um, where the fuck am I going with this? Oh, yeah. There's so many characters in those, because they're horror movies, and the more characters you have in a horror movie, especially an Alien horror movie, the

more creative ways you can you can write into the story for people to die.

One person um gets uh attacked by a xenomorph ancestor mutant form thingyamajiggy. Uh somebody else falls into acid. Somebody gets set on fire. Uh, another...I, I'm really not...

I don't know what was going on with the guy?

Did he pop out of the ground? Like, was he was — he — did he crawl up out of the ground? Was he like — when he's — like, they put the ramp down for the ship and then, like, it was confusing.

I couldn't tell if he was — if his body was like, contorted, or like if he just popped up out of the ground, and I don't know. It was confusing...

The point I'm trying to make here is that movies like Alien Pr — what — Covenant, Prometheus, whichever one fucking came first, um, they have so many people because that, that just means you get more ways to kill them all off and practice your CGI/practical

effects and just think, “all right, who wants to fall into acid? Raise your hand!”

Completely unrelated, but if you've ever seen the Resident Evil movie and also the Alien vs Predator movie, uh, somebody needs to fucking tell me: was it the actor guy or the director guy who said, "Hey, can your / my character die the exact same way twice in a row in two separate movies? Can we do a laser net, please? Can I please get chopped?"

Like, which way did it go? Did the director go to the actor and say, "Hey, hey, remember how we killed off your character in the Resident Evil movie? Do you want to do that again in the Alien vs Predator movie? You want to get sliced to bits by a laser net?"

Or did the did the actor go to the director and say, "It was really fun how we killed off my character in the Resident Evil movie. Can we do that again? Can we somehow work a laser into the fucking plot so I can get chopped into pieces by a laser net?"

If you've — if you haven't seen those movies, nothing I am saying makes any sense at all. Um, I want to know who approached who with that idea because it's hilarious.

Anyways, I don't know why it took me so long to realize that they were both directed by the same person because they literally have the same person playing the same type of character dies the exact same fucking way. And also they both do the “let's go into a big scary underground thingy and we will keep — we'll show a diagram of the — a digital diagram of the big scary underground place and show map markers where everybody is while we” and it's like yeah it's they're both good movies.

Um, it's funny. I, I want to know, did the actor say, "Can we kill my character off again?" Or did the actor go, "Hey, hey, you want to kill your character the exact same way again?"

Any fucking ways?

Um, anybody that's not racist right now, Murderbot would be continuing to stand up on that slope, maybe taking a few steps backward just to be safe, and then watching as the slave owners get eaten by a graboid.

And Murderbot would be thinking, “Damn! I, I was not expecting that to happen. But I'm fucking fine with that. All I got to do is edit whatever fucking logs are keeping track of my behavior and make it seem like I'm totally coming to the rescue.”

Murderbot could even invent a whole dramatic scenario inspired by the TV shows it's watching where it ~it does its Tragically Beautiful Best to rescue Bharadwaj and Volescu~ and um, uh, blah blah blah like all this shit.

It can make such a dramatic thing just with fucking with and hacking the audio and whatever the fuck else is going on in the situation for monitoring that's going out, so that everybody else thinks it's trying to be a hero and failing and just ~so so tragically unsuccessful. It's so sad. It tried its best.~

That's what would be happening if this story were actually anti-slavery.

But it's it's written by a white woman from Texas whose, whose ultimate fantasy is being such a nice slave owner that slaves kill themselves to protect her. So what we get instead is

> I didn't bother to make a verbal emergency call. I sent my I sent the visual feed from my field camera to Doctor Mensah's and jumped down into the crater. As I scrambled down the sandy slope, I could already hear Mensah over the emergency comm channel yelling at someone to get the

Actually, hold on.

So the — So Murderbot is the one that had to tell everybody else what's happening.

So it wouldn't even have to immediately start faking, uh, ‘going to the rescue’. It could wait and pretend that it had just been too preoccupied ~tragically

trying its best to rescue the poor doctors Volescu and Bharadwaj, that will be so missed. They didn't deserve to die getting eaten by a space graboid, but poor Murderbot, just, it just couldn't save them.~

Literally just it could be doing that.

Um, but no, nope. Nope.

> As I scrambled down

This was written by a racist, so we're not doing that.

We're not — We're not here to celebrate slave owners getting eaten by space aliens, a thing that everybody should cheer for. Nope.

Um,

> As I scrambled down the sandy slope, I could already hear Mensah over the emergency comm channel yelling at someone to get the hopper in the air now. They were about 10 kilos away working on another part of the island, so

> there was no way they were going to get here in time to help.

Also, you know what they could have just done if they wanted to pretend that there's more pages in this book than there actually are? They could have made actual large font and advertised it as having larger font to avoid eye strain.

That would have been an actual nice accessibility feature they could have done, which would have given them more pages with which to pretend that the story is longer than it actually is since they're lying through their fucking teeth by starting this off and pretending that page nine — er page one, is actually page nine.

So, we're we're literally pretending that page two of the story is actually 10 pages in when it's not, because it's a fucking scam.

A scam that Martha Wells is is working like —

No, whatever.

You get the fucking picture.

> Conflicting commands filled my feed, but I didn't pay attention. Even if I hadn't borked my own governor module, the emergency feed took priority. And it was chaotic, too, with the automated HubSystem wanting data and trying to send me data I didn't need yet. And Mensah sending me telemetry from the hopper, which I also didn't need. But it was easier to ignore than HubSystem simultaneously demanding answers and trying to supply them.

And it's like, so yeah, Murderbot could just be standing up on that hill chilling. Uh, well, not chilling, because it does — it would have to be hacking all this shit to make it seem like it's doing something, but it could literally just stand up there safely hacking stuff to present a dramatic scenario where it just ~tries so hard but just can't make it in time to rescue those poor...poor graboid.....uh food. I don't know, the poor graboid kibble.

Uh, yeah, that could be happening.

But Martha Wells is racist, so instead we're just doing slavery apologism.

So that's that was four or five — so that was paragraph six. So we're now on paragraph seven, which is on page three, which they are claiming is 11 pages into the story. It's not. It's three pages in.

> In the middle of all that, I hit the bottom of the crater. I have small energy weapons built into both arms, but the one I went for was the big projectile weapon clamped to my back. The hostile that had just exploded up out of the ground had a really big mouth. So I felt I needed a really big gun.

And again, Martha Wells, she has no clue how to not make her protagonist the most ridiculously overpowered person in existence.

But then she also wants to pretend that they're totally totally oppressed, like in The Books of the Raksura, she literally has the protagonists be superpowered,

literal super predators, apex predators who evolve to eat other people.

And then she expects us to believe that their natural prey, who has literally zero defense against them, are oppressing them by being reasonably fucking afraid when they just appear out of nowhere. When it is well known and literal fucking trauma ongoing for all of these prey species, that their literal family members got eaten by their cousins last week.

But then we're supposed to pretend that the prey are oppressing the apex predators who evolved to eat them, because the prey are scared when they first meet before they get to know them.

As though oppressed people are oppressed because we actually genuinely fucking pose a life fucking threat — life-threatening danger to the fucking oppressors.

And that's again what she's doing in Witch King. She's trying to frame demons and witches as ~oh, being

oppressed and not trusted around children, just like queer people!~

And — but then — but then the witches and demons are literally abusing children, factually in the fucking book, and torturing people in front of children.

And it's like, no, the reason that nobody — that you get told you're endangering these children is not because you're a witch or a demon. It's because you are objectively abusing these children.

Martha Wells, you cannot say, "Look at my characters. They abuse children. Isn't that awesome? Oh, everybody's so mean to them just because they abuse children!!!”

And try to frame this as, “see, conservatives are wrong to say that Queer people, especially trans people right now, are dangerous to children!!!”

Your characters are literal child abusers. You cannot fucking try to equate that to conservatives saying Queer people in general, and especially right now

trans people, because we're getting thrown under the fucking bus, you can't say, "Yeah, demons and witches who are actively abusing children for fucking real on page right there," that them being uh ~mistrusted around children~ is the exact same thing as trans people being considered pedophiles simply for existing.

It's like, no, you're just being a fucking bigot right now. You are literally the one comparing Queer people to child abusers because you expect us to sympathize with your child abuser characters because they get told they're abusing children, a thing they literally are doing.

You're the one writing them to be child abusers.

And then you expect us to take that and say, "Yeah, they're just like me. They're just oppressed like me!!!"

It's like, no, no, they're not oppressed. They're not oppressed at all and they're not fucking — Oh my god. That's — real fucking oppressed people are not oppressed because we actually abuse children like

your literal witch and demon characters who are literally torturing people in front of children, and I am going to keep bringing it up: refusing to give Sanja medical care for her broken toes!

Anyways, we are on page fucking three.

> I dragged Bharadwaj out of its mouth and shoved myself in there instead

Because Murderbot — because what slaves should do, according to Martha Wells, is literally throw themselves into the mouth of the monster that's trying to eat their slave owners, because that's how you know they're One of The Good Ones.

Literally. Literally. This is why this is a racist fucking story, because we are literally saying that it is good for slaves to literally endanger their lives to protect their slave owners.

And therefore, the implication is, that if Murderbot *didn't* risk its life to rescue its slave owners, literally shoving itself into the mouth of the monster that's

trying to eat the slave owners, that that would make Murderbot a bad person.

I — literally — that — some racist anon was trying to harass me because I'm pointing out Martha Wells's racism, and then because I turned off anons, they're now harassing a writing blog, because — just and, and claiming that “well if Murderbot was happy about its slave owners getting eaten, that would prove that that the stereotypes that slaves are violent is true! So that would actually be more racist.”

And it's like, you are so racist you don't grasp that there's a difference between portraying and doing propaganda that slaves are violent and just the basic fucking fact of reality that oppressed people have and deserve the right to violently fucking rebel and just, you know, be happy when bad things happen to their oppressors.

This person is so racist that they are claiming that if you are happy that your literal slave owners got eaten by a graboid, that means that you are ~the real racist~ and ~proving the racist propaganda right~.

So they are now literally actively arguing against any form of rebellion by slaves at all, by saying that slaves rebelling in such a mild way as *not shoving themselves into the mouth of a monster that's trying to eat their slave owners, t*hey're trying to say that that would be ~the real racism~ um because ~you're proving the oppressors right~ by rebelling.

And it's like, do — how many racist hoops do you have to jump through to get there?

Anyways,

> I dragged barrage Bharadwaj out of its mouth and shoved myself in there instead and discharged my weapon down its throat and then up toward where I hoped the brain would be. I'm not sure if all that happened in that order. I'd have to replay my own field camera feed. All I knew was that I had Bharadwaj and it didn't and it had disappeared back down the tunnel

Because the only good slave according to this whole fucking series is a slave that will happily sacrifice itself to protect its slave owners, as you will see more than half a dozen times.

Actually, let me count.

Half a dozen — half a dozen sex slaves in book two kill themselves to protect their explicit fucking rapist slave owners. That's six.

I don't know where any of my washable markers went, so I can't write a checklist on my arm.

Murderbot attempts to fucking kill itself explicitly twice in this story for the sole purpose of protecting its slave owners. It also, um just dove right into that graboid's mouth. We're going to count that as attempted self-sacrifice for the sake of protecting slave owners because it's only fucking luck that that didn't kill it.

Like, I think I wrote — I think I said that Murderbot does this shit, tries to sacrifice itself and puts it

threatens its own life to save its slave owners, I think I said I counted six times in this story alone.

We'll count as we go through. So, this is number one. Literally shoving itself into the mouth of a graboid to protect its slave owners instead of staying safe and letting them die.

Um, yeah. Then we have those six sex slaves. And no, that's not me misspeaking. They are literally sex slaves kill themselves.

We're told — we're we're told this happened in the past. They killed themselves heroically to protect their rapist slave owners. Um, book three has — Yeah, that was book — that was book two.

Uh, book three —

You're just gonna get spoilers. I don't give a shit, uh, has Miki kill itself to protect its slave owners again.

Book four has Murderbot, again, endanger its life to protect its slave owners, willingly going back into the

territory of the company that enslaved it in the first place. Um, just doing that alone counts.

And then it purposefully walks into what it knows is going to be a fucking trap to save the slave owners and then does this shit again at the end of that book where it is risking its fucking life, um doing stuff with the ship, again, to save everybody, not just itself. It's doing this explicitly to save all of the slave owners. And that's book four.

Book five. So much shitgoing on in book five. I'm g — I'm not gonna stop. I'm not gonna — I'm gonna stop counting now, because I forgot to actually count that whole time. It's a bunch.

We'll just go with a dozen times that slaves in this series kill themselves or attempt to kill themselves and endanger their lives willingly to protect their slave owners. And this is portrayed as heroic instead of a thing that they should never have to fucking do, and in a story where we actually think that slavery is fucking bad, wouldn't fucking happen unless the slave

in question was literally being forced into it, and that is treated as a horrifying thing.

But that's not what's happening here. despite Martha Wells confirming in interviews that none of them actually have a choice in this. But then she she says that, and then she follows that up by presenting that as though it's displaying their ~moral purity~ because uh they're they're ~some of the good ones~. The only good slave is a slave that will fucking kill itself to protect its slave owners.

Uh, yep. Let's continue. Okay, we're on page 3 slash 11. They're claiming it's page 11. It's page three.

> She was unconscious and bleeding through her suit from massive wounds in her right leg inside. I clamped the weapon back into its harness so I could lift her with both arms. I had lost the armor on my left arm and a lot of the flesh underneath, but my non-organic parts were still working. Another burst of commands from the governor module came through and I backburnered it without bothering to decode

> them. Bharadwaj, not having non-organic parts and not as easily repaired as me, was definitely a priority here and I was mainly interested in what the med system was trying to tell me on the emergency feed. But first I needed to get her out of the crater.

And again, so we're not — getting we're getting the vaguest fucking descriptions possible of what Murderbot's injuries are. But it is later compared to a human losing an entire fucking limb.

So, Murderbot, who is a cyborg and feels fucking pain, has had most of the flesh on its arm eaten off. Uh, also, you'll notice that there was like zero fucking description of that whole incident right there.

So, we're just left to guess how any of this actually fucking happened. Um, yeah. Also — whatever. No, not going to bother.

Uh, yeah. So, Murderbot has endangered its life to rescue a slave owner. A thing it didn't need to fucking do, because its governor module was hacked.

If its governor module was not hacked, it would have been forced on pain of instant death to do that. It didn't have to do this, but it choose — but it chooses to, because it's ~One of The Good Ones~.

According to Martha Wells — Martha Wells literally posits in this whole fucking book, this book in particular, just starting out, and the whole entire series afterwards just continues to double down on it, that the only good slave is a slave who will willingly kill themselves to protect their slave owners. Those are the only ones who deserve to live, and they don't actually get to live because they've all killed themselves to protect their slave owners.

A thing that that she then tells us in interviews they actually had no choice about. ~But um don't be horrified by that. It just shows how good they are. Uh it's just their natural state of being despite me literally just explaining that this is a thing unnaturally forced on them that they are literally brainwashed on the fundamental core of their being to have to do this shit. But it's just showing how moral they are because

good slaves will kill themselves to protect their slave owners.~

And but, but (begin sarcasm) yeah, guys, um you can trust that this white woman from Texas who wrote an entire book about this shit dedicated to worshiping the concept of slaves killing themselves to protect their precious cinnamon roll slave owners. Yeah, she's totally not racist. I'm sure. I I'm sure it's all just a coincidence. (end sarcasm)

> During all this, Volescu was huddled on on the churned up rock, losing his shit. Not that I was unsympathetic. I was far less vulnerable in this situation than he was, and I wasn't exactly having a great time either.

And I'll finish the paragraph.

> I said, "Doctor Volescu, you need to come with me now."

Let me repeat that.

I wasn't exactly having a great time either.

If you watched my videos of me reading Witch King, um you'll have noticed that she just does this all the time. She wrote this book in 2017. 20 — Uh do I really want to do math? Uh no, we'll say six years.

I'm, I'm bad at math because I have dyslexia and every time the number nine and seven are next to each other, I always read them backwards. And not one single math teacher ever noticed this. They just gave me Fs because I was answering the wrong question and not realizing it because I fucking read it wrong because of my dyslexia.

Anyways, um she wrote this, let's just go with six years before she wrote Witch King. Um, but she's still doing the same exact shit.

So across six years where she should be growing and learning as a person and as a writer because skills never stop improving, it's not like a video game where you get an XP cap and then you never get better. Every skill you ever do is always getting better all the

fucking time. Every time you write anything, you are getting better at writing, even if you don't notice.

But Martha Wells refuses to fucking just learn and accept constructive criticism. So instead of showing us — *showing us* that fight scene, we're just getting told — or just even, describing what Murderbot's actual injuries look like, or what it's feeling in this situation.

We just get told, um,

> I wasn't exactly having a great time either.

Kind of like how Kai just abruptly tells us that he's Really Fucking Angry Right Now! a thing I'm never going to stop making fun of, just so you know, because it's so fucking hilariously bad.

It's like, and that — we just get told he's Really Fucking Angry Right Now. But nothing before that was indicating that in literally any way, because she refuses to — it's like — she's literally failing the most basic creative writing principle of “show, don't tell”.

She doesn't show us that Murderbot is severely injured. She just tells us, um,

> I wasn't exactly having a great time either.

She didn't show us that Kai was really fucking angry right now. She just told us that out of fucking nowhere. And even in Data Ghost, a story she just published July 2025 — it was on July 1st, 2025 in the collection. I think that one was — Do I got to go and get it or can I remember the name? I don't know.

Um, that's another short story that's set in the Murderbot Diaries universe, but is not about Murderbot. It's about some random fucking characters. And it's also horribly written.

And again, she's doing the same thing where she won't describe anything to us that matters and barely describes anything that even... doesn't.

Um, and then like a character is going through something like, that should be super dramatic and tense and meaningful, and could literally, under the

hands of a competent writer — and I have seen it done by competent writers, mostly in the Danny Phantom fandom as a kid from fanfictions I read as a kid.

You could give that prompt, that writing prompt, describe that situation as a writing prompt. I, I actually will do that. I'm going to do that as an experiment. Now, I'm not even — Well, I guess I will read that out at some point.

Um, you could give that writing prompt to the Danny Phantom fandom and they would come up with 50 fucking short stories that do it perfectly.

Um, but Martha Wells doesn't do any that of that.

Uh, we just get told like this thing, that by all rights should be extremely dramatic and stressful and deep and everything, everything possible, but it's not, because she doesn't — she doesn't describe it.

She doesn't let us sit with it at all. The, the plot, the storytelling, it should be grinding to a halt during this

thing so that we can experience each excruciating moment with the fucking character as they are going through this shit, that I guarantee you the Danny Phantom fandom will explode so much, and then we get nothing.

We get like some shit skimmed — “uh yeah they did blah and blah and blah and then had to sit down and try not to cry”.\

And it's like okay but them wanting to cry comes out of fucking nowhere emotionally, because you haven't given us any reason to think they're upset because you haven't described a single thing that's going on here.

Even though this isn't a difficult thing to make dramatic and mentally exhausting as well as physically exhausting, I'm — I'm not even going to tell you what exactly it is I'm talking about until I do a video where I'm reading that, and you get to see my reactions to it because like, I want you to be surprised.

You might be imagining some horrible things. Like it's it's bad, but it's not like — it would be a bad thing to go through. As I've said, entire short stories could consist of literally nothing but that from start to finish and could literally begin as soon as it starts and then end as soon as it stops. That could be the whole thing.

There there could be an entire fucking film — short film genre or even just film genre in general, it wouldn't even have to be short — that consists of nothing but this.

You'll see when I make that video, or you can just go read it for yourself.

Data Ghost by Martha Wells. It's got all of her problems and, and it's just bad.

What was I saying? Oh, yeah. The the fact that we just get told

> I wasn't exactly having a great time either

But we're not getting any description of anything to to make that a believable statement.

Like, you can have a character be in shock, but we can still feel the emotions and the trauma of what they're going through along with them, but that's not what's happening here.

We're just not doing writing. We're just — It's bad writing. It's objective, objectively bad writing.

So this is page four, which they are claiming is page 12.

> He didn't respond. Uh I said, "Doctor Volescu, you need to come with me now." He didn't respond. Med system was advising a tranq shot and blah blah blah, but I was clamping one arm on Doctor Bharadwaj’s suit to keep her from bleeding out and supporting her head with the other. And despite everything, I only have two hands. I told my helmet to retract so he could see my human face. If the hostile came back and bit me again, this would be a bad mistake

> because I did need the organic parts of my head. I made my voice firm and warm and gentle and said, "Doctor It's going to be fine, okay? But you need to get up and come help me get her out of here.

The reason Murderbot needs the organic parts of its head is because it's a fucking cyborg and it kind of needs its fucking brain to be alive.

I'm thirsty. I'm getting a drink. [video pauses, restarts] I'm back. I should probably check the battery. 27%. Hmmm... I think we'll keep going. My phone will ~surely~ tell me if the battery is going to die.

We'll — I'll read — I'll try to read two more pages and then, unless I get interrupted with another half an hour...How long is this? Hour and 36 minutes. We got four pages in. Uh but if we go with what they're saying, it's 12 pages cuz they're fucking lying scammers.

Uh, that...

> Doctor Volescu, it's going to be fine, okay? But you need to get up and come with me. Help me get her out of here. That did it. He shoved to his feet and staggered over to me, still shaking. I turned my good side toward him and said, "Grab my arm." Okay, hold on.

And Murderbot says it's good side because it's missing 20% of its fucking body mass, which we're told later is the equivalent to a human, a “real” human. because Murderbot is a fucking cyborg. It literally is human, has just been dehumanized in-universe and in Martha Wells's head to justify enslaving, it because Martha Wells hates physically disabled people and thinks that if you have prosthetics that means you're not fucking human anymore cuz she's literally the fucking, again she's a white supremacist.

She's literally actively gleefully cheering on the whitewashing of her own character and telling you, poor person, to give your grocery money to Apple to reward them for white the white supremacy of

whitewashing a fucking character who is a slave and making the entire thing into just another fucking reverse racism thing.

And we're not even not even — don't even have time to get into the ciswashing because Murderbots canonically non-binary. And not only did they whitewash it, they hired a cis man for the role because fuck non-binary people.

> He managed to loop his arm around the crook of my elbow and I started up the crater towing him holding Bharadwaj against my chest. Her breathing was rough and desperate, and I couldn't get any info from her suit. Mine was torn across my chest, so I upped the warmth on my body, hoping it would help. The feed was quiet now, Mensah, having managed to use her leadership priority to mute everything but Medsystem and the hopper. And all I could hear on the hopper feed was the others frantically shushing each other.

And again, all of this, all of this happening so far, we're now on page five, which they are claiming is page 13. All of this is to make you think that these slave owners, the thing that they objectively are — they went out of their way, solar systems, out of their way to slum it for no fucking reason, to become slave owners for funsies. Um, all of this is being framed to show them as just pure innocent cinnamon rolls who need to be protected.

> All I could hear on the hopper feed was the others frantically shushing each other.

The way that that is being just stated. They're frantically shushing each other on the the, fucking radio going “shhhh, shhhhhh, you'll distract it.”

That's supposed to be cute and quirky and funny.

And it's like, it's all slavery apologism starting on page one, which they are claiming is page nine.

There's not a single moment in this book that is not literally dedicated to slavery apologism. And just

because Martha Wells didn't sit down in front of her computer and say to herself, I'm gonna write a story and I'm gonna do slavery apologism” doesn't mean that it's not slavery apologism.

[frowning and squinting for a few moments] I'm making this face because I'm looking at the cover again. It's like, what is this tree doing? Why is it going fucking sideways? [holds up book to show cover again] These trees are just — It doesn't even make sense. They're supposed to all be perfectly straight. So, can you can you blame me for thinking that they were all that Murderbot is standing in a fucking warehouse surrounded by out of focus other people in armor the whole time?

Uh, the — Yeah, it's all slavery apologism. Every single word of it.

> The footing on the side of the crater was lousy. soft sand and loose pebbles, but my legs weren't damaged, and I got up to the top with both humans still alive. Volescu tried to collapse, and I coaxed him away from the edge

> a few meters, just in case whatever was down there had a longer reach than it looked.

And again, Murderbot's priority is not to get itself to safety after it was — after it was forced down there by its governor module. Its priority is to keep both of its slave owners alive.

And again, it's even more — just *more* slavery apologism in the fact that Murderbot starts out the story already with a hacked governor module instead of actually being — like, that could, it would literally be fine and a million times better if this started off with Murderbot being forced to do all of this shit and not wanting to do it, and then the other slaves who have somehow managed to free themselves —

I shouldn't have to rewrite the entire goddamn story just to make it not be racist.

There's already “alien remnants” aka Xenomorph Goop on this goddamn planet that's messing with the fucking scanners and shit.

You could let — If this story were not written by a racist white woman from Texas obsessed with her fantasy of being such a nice slave owner that her slaves would totally kill themselves to protect her, and that's how you know she's a good slave owner — that's literally the entire premise of the story —

If this *weren't* written by a racist white woman from Texas, this the whole plot of this could be:

Murderbot is like every other fucking enslaved cyborg. It has a governor module that forces it to protect its slave owners no matter what it wants of the fucking situation. We could have gotten an actual description of this scene, and this monster, and it could have been Murderbot being a prisoner inside its own body, being forced to go down there and forced to fucking protect them against its fucking will.

And it fucking hates every second of it, because it has to put effort into protecting the humans. Otherwise, it is also going to fucking die. And it could fucking hate them for this, because, here's a — here's a radical concept for you fucking racists:

It's good for — it's literally good to hate slave owners.

It's literally fucking fine for oppressed people to hate their oppressors.

Especially when the oppressed people we are talking about are people enslaved to be meatshields. It's good and healthy to hate your fucking slave owners. That's the correct healthy normal natural fucking response to being enslaved, especially being enslaved to be a fucking meatshield who is literally a trapped in your own fucking body.

But people are so fucking racist. It's unbelievable. Like this whole thing could literally start off Murderbot actually fucking enslaved the way every other slave is.

And the only reason it's not in this, is because Martha Wells is so racist and hates slaves so much that the very idea of Murderbot being on the same fucking playing field as all the other slaves, she thinks that would be like, beneath it, and it's — it's ~inherently superior~ to them. So, it obviously needs to start off

superior to them and privileged over them in every way.

And it doesn't use that privilege to help them, no. (begin sarcasm) What do — What do you think — What are you, some kind of fucking bleeding heart liberal? (end sarcasm)

And it's like, god damn.

It could literally be a thing that Murderbot was forced by its governor module to do all of this shit and it hates every second.

And then when these people decide they're going to go to the DeltFall habitat to look for survivors, the other slaves there, who have managed to free themselves, because the xenomorph goop got on one of their — one of them.

Maybe they fucking tripped. Maybe they were pushed for a joke by one of the slave owners who just have fun torturing people. Maybe one of them got pushed into a puddle of xenomorph goop as a joke and then

that xenomorph goop fried their governor module and then gave them the ability to hack everybody else's governor module.

So when Murderbot and these these fucking slave owners show up to look for survivors, after they kill all the slave owners there, which — a thing we should literally fucking celebrate, but Martha Wells wants you to see as ~a mindless slaughter of innocent people~.

Slave owners are not innocent people. They're slave owners, you racist fuckers.

No — we could — but we could literally have that, and then Murderbot is freed by those slaves, and then the entire plot of the story is finding where the fuck the DeltFall people are, and freeing those slaves, and then everybody trying to get the fuck off the planet to safety, or hiding somewhere on the planet if they have the fucking technology, or knowledge, or just anything at all to fucking produce batteries and food and shit for themselves, whatever the hell they need to survive.

But we can't do that, um, because Martha Wells is a racist white woman from Texas. So every other slave on this story gets murdered by the protagonists and that is portrayed as a good thing.

We're supposed to cheer for it and think that Murderbot is such a badass.

Where are we at? We're on page five, which they are claiming is page 14 because they're fucking scammers. And Martha Wells is happy about this.

Oh, there's another sentence at the start of this. As did I skip a page? Yeah, I skipped a page by accident. Never mind. We're still on page four, which they are claiming is page 13.

Where am I at? Oh.

> I didn't want to put Bharadwaj down because something in my abdomen was severely damaged and I wasn't sure I could pick her up again. I ran my field camera back and saw a little and saw I had gotten stabbed with a tooth

> or maybe a cillia. Did I mean a cillia or was that something else? They don't give murderbots decent education modules on anything except murdering and even those are the cheap versions. I was looking it up in HubSystems language center when the little hopper landed nearby. I let my helmet seal and go opaque as it settled on the grass.

And you see that ridiculous little sentence in there?

> They don't give murderbots decent education models on anything except murdering

Because in this one she was pretending that murderbots, which is what murderbot literally refers to other cyborg meatshields as, pretending that they're designed to murder people, a thing that literally has never fucking happened in this entire goddamn series.

It's just a lie that she made up in book one and then never actually followed through on, *which is what makes it a lie*.

And then it it literally never happens. They are literally never used to murder people ever, at all. Ever. And literally never. It never happens.

We have seven main published books and 11 short stories — 11 stories total set in this fucking universe. That includes all seven of the main stories and the short stories that — most of which are not from Murderbot’s perspective.

Uh, murder — sec — I'm just going to call them murderbots because that's literally what we're fucking calling them in here.

Where am I at? [points at the out of focus word ‘murderbots’ in the book] Uh, you can't read it. Trust me. It's literally calling them murderbots with an unc — capitalized M.

Murderbots are literally never actually used for murdering people. Not — literally, literally not once in this whole fucking series. It's just a lie. And it's a lie *because* Martha Wells said it in this book and then never followed through with it.

So, she's just lying to us because of her own bad writing and, and she — the fact that she can't even keep her own goddamn story straight. It's a lie. Murderbots don't murder people, ever. They're not used to murder people. They're not used to punish people. That's not what they are used for.

They're used as meatshields. That's what they actually used for. Not for murdering people. Not for punishing people who break laws.

They're literally not allowed to fucking hurt people unless it's in defense of their own slave owners.

> I was looking it up in HubSystems Language Center when the little hopper landed nearby. I let my helmet seal and go opaque as it settled on the grass. We had two standard hoppers

And that was another you another example of her not knowing how pronouns work, but I think I already mentioned that in another video, so I'm not going to go over it again.

I'll read that sentence again.

> I was looking it up in HubSystems Language Center when the little hopper landed nearby. I let my helmet seal and go opaque as it settled on the grass.

You can figure it out.

> We had two standard hoppers. One, a big one for emergencies and this little one for getting to the assessment locations. It had three compartments, one big one in the middle for the human crew and two smaller ones to each side for cargo, supplies, and me. Mensah was at the controls. I started, walking slower than I normally would have because I didn't want to lose

And again, why why are we referring to Doctor Mensah as just Mensah when we establish that her title is doctor? And she's referred to as doctor in all of her fucking dialogue. Just — just the way people refer

to people out loud is usually how they're referred to them in their heads.

You could make a joke where a character is just calling everybody silly names in their head all the time and then using their —and making an effort to use their proper name in dialogue, but this is just inconsistent for no good fucking reason.

And then, as I said at the start of the video, she's doing it in Rapport, which was published in July 10, 2025, 20 days ago, and it still has all the exact same extremely blatant mistakes and typos, and is non-existent editing.

And she's having her protagonist in the narration refer to her own fucking fathers by their first names with zero indication anywhere outside of like two lines of dialogue that those are her fucking parents. Why is she referring to them by their first names?

It's not even like they have a bad fucking relationship. It's not like they were so horribly abusive that she calls them by their first names to insult them and

distance them from her, um, socially, and disown them as her parents.

They have a good relationship, but then she just thinks of them by their first fucking names, because Martha Wells is bad at writing. It's not done for a character reason. It's because Martha Wells is bad at writing.

> As the ramp started to drop, Pin Lee and Arada jumped out and I switched to voicecom to say, "Doctor Mensah, I can't let go of her suit."

You see what I fucking mean? In dialogue, she's referred to as Doctor Mensah because that's what her name is. And then in the actual regular narration, it's just suddenly just Mensah, not Doctor Mensah. And it's like, it's just so fucking inconsistent.

And it's just bad writing. Like, that's just bad writing. It's bad writing.

It's because Martha Wells doesn't know how to fucking write and refuses to accept critical fucking, just any constructive criticism since the fucking 90s.

And it's like, ~oh, the writing community keeps disappointing me~ and is it —is it because you you actively refuse and are —refuse to learn from your mistakes and are actively scornful of anyone who tries to explain to you the proper way to write and that you don't —you literally just cari —make caricatures of people to put into your fucking books so that you can shit on the caricature that you made up?

Literally, you strawman the people who explain to you that slavery is bad, and put them in your fucking story, so you can make fun of them because they say that the Arbora are slaves, ~but actually um they enjoy being enslaved, so, it's good actually.~

The thing everybody claims they hate JK Rowling for, but it's totally fine when Martha Wells does it, because people don't actually hate JK Rowling for that. The only reason they hate JK Rowling is that she

said she *also* hates white trans people, not just people of color.

> It took her a second to realize what I meant, she said hurriedly. That's all right. Bring her up into the crew cabin. Murderbots aren't allowed to ride with the humans, and I had to have verbal permission to enter. With my cracked governor module, there was nothing to stop me. But not letting anybody, especially the people who held my contract, know that I was a know that I was a free agent was kind of important. Like not having my organic components destroyed and the rest of me cut up for parts important.

And yeah, again, we're just doing euphemisms for slavery. Instead of saying my slave owners, it's “people who held my contract” and the racist stans of the white woman from Texas try to use — try to just try to say that the sla — the Preservation team aren't — “they're not Murderbot’s slave owners”.

Except, we explicitly get confirmed in one of the other books, not that it needed explicit confirmation, but we still fucking got it, that when somebody offers to hire Murderbot in a later book, Murderbot's immediately reaction is, "Why the fuck do they want to buy me? I thought I thought owning a SecUnit was illegal where they're from?”

Literally, Murderbot equates being “hired” with “you're going to buy me and become my new slave owner” because that's what it fucking means. That's what it means.

When you are fucking renting out slaves, you are becoming their slave owner until you fucking return them. You're not actually paying them for a fucking job. They don't actually have the option to say no. You are just a slave owner.

> I carried Bharadwaj up the ramp into the cabin where Overse and Rathi were frantically unclipping seats to make room. They had their helmets off and their suit hoods pulled back, so I got to see their horrified expressions when

> they took in what was left of my upper body through my torn suit. I was glad I had sealed my helmet

And, again because Murderbot is completely fucking physically wounded right now, and all for the sake of protecting a slave owner. It's just fucking ridiculous.

> This is why I actually like riding with the cargo humans and augmented hum

Strike number one!

That's the — That's the ableism against physically disabled people.

Augmented humans refers to cyborgs who are not enslaved, but they still need to be declassified from the category of human. So instead of like, there — we are never — we, they are never allowed to just exist as human. They must always be referred to as augmented humans, aka subhumans. That's what that means. That's what that means.

> Humans and augmented humans in close quarters with murderbots is too awkward. At least it's awkward for this murderbot. I sat down on the deck with Bharadwaj in my lap while Pin-Lee and Arada dragged Volescu inside.
> We left two packs of field equipment and a couple of instruments behind still sitting on the grass where Bharadwaj and Volescu had been working before they went down to the crater for samples. Normally, I'd help carry them, but MedSystem, which was monitoring Bharadwaj through what was left of her suit, was pretty clear that letting go of her would be a bad idea. But no one mentioned the equipment. Leaving easily replaceable items behind may seem obvious in an emergency, but I have been on contracts with the clients

Clients, not the slave owners, not the masters, they're “clients”. We're again using euphemisms to soften the fact that it's fucking slavery we're talking about!

> where the clients would have told me to put the bleeding human down and go get the stuff.

See, again, this is “See, these slave owners are good people. They're pure cinnamon rolls.”

> On this contract, Doth Doctor Rathi jumped up and said, "I'll get the cases."

And then I think that's the first and only time he's referred to as Doctor Rathi. And from now on, it's all just Rathi. And again,

> Rathi jumped up and said, "I'll get the cases."

And then that's supposed to be a silly quirky “haha, what a silly goofball thing to say!” to make us in — to make him seem endearing despite him being a slave owner, because it's racist propaganda for slavery. Despite claiming to be the opposite, it doesn't actually.

> I yelled, "No," which I'm not supposed to do. I'm always supposed to speak reflect

> respectfully to the clients, even when they're about to accidentally commit suicide. HubSystem could log it and could trigger punishment through the governor module if it wasn't hacked.
> Fortunately, the rest of the humans yelled, "No!" at the same time, and Pin-Lee added, "For fuck’s sake, Rathi!"

And again, this is all supposed to be funny. It's designed as a joke of, "Haha, look how look at that silly brown man." Because it's also just making him comic relief. “Look at that silly brown man. He wants to go out and get the cases and everybody has to yell at him. That's so funny. Haha. Aren't — Don't you love these silly, quirky slave owners? Isn't it so funny? Don't you want them to just keep being silly little goofballs?”

It's all slavery apologism. It's literally asking us to sympathize with and see the slave owners as quirky cinnamon rolls.

> Rathi said, "Oh, no time. Of course, I'm sorry." And hit the quick close sequence on the hatch.

And again, more slavery apologism. “Oh, oh, what a silly little goofball.” That's literally — that's literally the takeaway, that Rathi is a silly goofball who would got have gotten himself eaten if anybody everybody hadn't yelled at him.

> and hit the quick close sequence on the hatch. So we didn't lose our ramp when the hostile came up under it, big mouthful of teeth or cillia or whatever chewing right through the ground. There was a great view of it on the hopper's cameras, which it helpfully which its system helpfully sent straight to everybody's feed. The humans screamed.

Okay, we're we're going to be at a nice stopping fucking point. And again, that's supposed to be funny. “Laugh at the silly slave owners doing the funny joke of scary monster and then everybody screamed. Isn't it so funny? A look at these beloved, adorable, silly

goofball slave owners. Ignore the part where they're slave owners. They're just silly goofballs.”

> Mensah pushed us up into the air so fast and hard I nearly leaned over and everybody who wasn't on the floor ended up there. In the quiet afterward, as they gasped with relief, Pin-Lee said, "Rathi, if you get yourself killed,” “You'll be very cross with me. I know." Rathi slid down the wall a little more and waved weakly at her. "That's an order, Rathi. Don't get yourself killed," Mensah said from the pilot seat.

Again, all, “look at this quirky, silly, uh, banter. They're such cute little cinnamon rolls. Please ignore the part where they’re slave owners who went out of their way to rent out a slave to use as a meatshield.”

And then later in this book, they will lie to that slave's face about how they just didn't know slavery was wrong, “they had no idea robots were people. You can't blame them for, for enslaving it and going out of their way to get a fucking slave to rent out. You have

to forgive them. They just didn't know slavery was wrong. They had no clue that it's a person!!!!”

A thing actively disproven by every book following this, because Martha Wells is bad at writing and is so racist, and is bad at writing.

> She sounded calm, but I have security priority and I could see her racing heartbeat through MedSystem. Arada pulled out the emergency medical kit so they could stop the bleeding and try to stabilize Bharadwaj. I tried to be as much like an appliance as possible, clamping the wounds where they told me to, using my failing body temperature to try to keep her warm, and keeping my head down so I couldn't see them staring at me.

And then we get a little fucking line break. So, I'm just going to stop there. We are on, well, I'm not doing math. That's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. We're on page eight or...or page seven. We're on page seven, I think, which they're claiming is page 16.

Yep. I'll just I'll stop reading there. Um we'll just read more later, because this video is two hours long, and I'm not going to apologize.

It's correct — correct length of video.

Um, yeah. There's literally not one single scene in this book and the entire rest of the series that it's spawned that's not just in there to do slavery apologism and make —

Because literally nobody who's actually anti-slavery would ever fucking ask you to see slave owners as adorable, quirky goofballs that you should adore.

Nobody who's actually anti-slavery would ask you to prioritize keeping, um, slave owners safe at the expense of the slaves’ fucking life, sanity, and physical safety.

Nobody who's actually anti-slavery would ever write this fucking book.

Nobody who actually thinks that slavery is horrific, who's actually against it on a fundamental level.

Nobody who has actually put in the fucking time and effort to unlearn the white supremacy that growing up as a white woman in Texas has taught you, that you've happily fucking chugged and actively refused to accept constructive criticism on since the fucking 90s, when you began your writing career as a fully grown adult.

Nobody who's not racist and chugging slavery apologism since birth and happily doing so would ever fucking write this.

It's not possible to be actually anti-slavery and write a story like this.

And it just gets worse.

This is just the fucking start. We're seven pages in it.

This is just the start and it's just going to get so much worse. And you'll see in another two hour fucking

video whenever I do the next one, because I have to charge my fucking phone now.

So yeah, please for the love of fucking just read books written by people who actually know how to write.

...I. I. I cannot. No, I'm not even gonna say it. Nope. All right. bye.

02

It's August 15th, 2025.

We're going to finally continue reading this atrocious book that's so fucking racist.

We are on what they are — this, the scammers are calling page 16. It's actually uh, page seven, but they are scammers, and they're lying about the page count to make it seem like there are more pages in this book, so that they can just scam people.

Uh we are below the little page break there...60 perform...Yeah. Yeah. We're at the little paragraph break. Uh,

> Performance reliability at 60% and dropping

And before we — Yeah.

Before we get into actually reading it, just like there's so many things in this book, book one, that never come up in the series ever again.

Um, as many, many, many — you can see from many reviews, people pointing out that with every book that comes out, Murderbot just gets more and more and — becomes a more and more flanderized version of itself.

Flanderization, it means that you're just taking — like, think of any well-developed, well-rounded character, and now think about how the fandom portrays them.

They just pick one or two traits and say that that is the entire fucking personality. Flanderization. Just a basic example.

In this book, we get told that Murderbot, it doesn't just watch TV like the entire rest of the series would have you think. It reads books, it watches movies, it listens to music, *and* it watches TV.

It does more than one thing.

But then the entire rest of the series, the only thing that ever gets mentioned from now on, until like, maybe one short story that's not even from

Murderbot's perspective, it, it mentions watching a play, but then we never get any details of it.

So, we start off with a character who reads books, listens to music, enjoys all sorts of media in all sorts of formats, and then the entire rest of the series just drops all the extraneous activities and says the only thing it does is watch TV, it only watches soap operas. And then we don't even get to know anything *about* those soap operas, so they may as well literally not fucking exist.

Like it — I don't know why the fuck the concept of The Rise and Fall of Sanctuary Moon exists if nothing is ever going to be done about it with it in this series, which if you're hoping for that, it's never going to happen. We never get to know anything about it. It's not used as a frame story.

Like, if you've seen the movie The Princess Bride, that's a frame story. It's a story within a story where we learn lessons.

We could be doing that. Murderbot could be reviewing its favorite scenes from the fucking TV show, and we get to watch it with it, because they reflect different parts of its life, what it's going through, and wish, and all of these kinds of things.

But that's not going to happen. It's just bad writing. It's just lazy writing. It's shallow writing.

It's writing that is actively trying to encourage you to turn your brain off and don't think about it.

And it's like, that's the exact opposite of what reading is for.

Anyways, uh this is page seven, which they are claiming is page 16 because they're scammers.

> Performance reliability at 60% and dropping.

And that's never going to come up. This is never — I guess we'll just count how many times that happens in this book. So that's one.

(to person offscreen)Do you have a notepad? I don't know where all my washable markers went. — I can just open notepad on my computer.

It would help if I would type in...

So, we have one count of “we're going to do a random page break to say, ‘Oh, uh, Murderbots batteries are running out of power’ thing that it will literally never have to worry about ever again.”

And the reason it happens so many times in this is simply because Martha Wells couldn't think of any other way to to change the scene.

It's it — once — she does that a lot with a lot of her characters because I, I hate to regret, I regret to inform everybody this…

(to person offscreen) how old did we say she is?

(from offscreen) She's at least 60.

She's like 60 or something. She's not some brand new writer. She's not a debut author. She's been writing since the 90s. She has a full entire fantasy series.

Uh, once you realize that the reason she keeps knocking her characters unconscious is simply because she can't think of any other way to end the scene or to end the story, especially with Data Ghost, just you wait until we get there.

Also, before — I will stop rambling and I'll get to it. But for the record, we're going to be reading these on the camera here in publishing order, not in-universe chronological order.

And the reason for that is so that you all have to suffer exactly the same way all of us did, because I know a lot of people are starting to read the books coming from the TV show because it's twenty-twenty — It's August 15th, 2025. So the first season of the TV show is out.

So people are watching that and then they're like, "Oh yeah, I love that. Let's go read those books!" And all

the rest of the fandom is warning them, "Do not fucking read them in publishing order. It's atrocious."

But you guys don't get to do that. We are going to read them in publishing order, so you can see and — which I recommend at this point, because reading them any other way just gives you so many more excuses to make for the writing that the writing doesn't deserve.

Don't give it the benefit of the doubt. It doesn't fucking deserve it.

When you read this in publishing order, you realize exactly the fact that this story is literally never going anywhere ever again.

Anyways,

> Performance reliability at 60% and dropping. Our habitat is a pretty standard model. Seven interconnected domes set down on a relatively flat plane above a narrow river valley with our power and recycling system connected on one

> side. We had an environmental system, but no airlocks as the planet's atmosphere was breathable, just not particularly good for humans for the long term. I don't know why because it's one of those things I'm not contractually obligated to care about.

Just go watch Prometheus / Covenant. They're horror movies.

(from offscreen) Prometheus is a good one. Covenant is shit.

Yeah, I couldn't remember. I couldn't remember which order they're in. I give up on that.

(from offscreen) Prometheus came first cuz he brought fire.

Okay, that's easy. Prometheus came first cuz he made —

Okay, you might not be able to hear the person talking on the other side of the cardboard.

> We picked the location when

Why is Murderbot saying we? You had nothing to do with this decision! And it's just bad writing.

> We picked the location because it's right in the middle of the assessment area. And while there are trees scattered through the plane, each one is 15 or so meters tall, very skinny with a single layer of spreading canopy. So, it's hard for anything approaching to use them as cover. Of course, that didn't take into account anything approaching via tunnel.

And it's like —

(from offscreen) why 50 ft?

Yeah, I I'm not questioning *that*.

> We have security doors on the habitat for safety, but HubSystem told me the main one was already open as the hopper landed. Doctor Gurathin had a lift gurney ready and guided it

> out to us. Overse and Arada had managed to get borrowed stabilized. So I was able to put her down on it

And again, bad use of pronouns. That's especially when you have a character who uses it/its pronouns. Let me restart.

> We have security doors on the habitat for safety. But HubSystem told me the main one was already open.

And I have to put a little asterisk there. I'll hold my finger up so I don't forget.

> HubSystem told me the main one was already open as the hopper landed. Doctor Gurathin had a gurney ready and guided it out to us. Overse and Arada had managed to get Bharadwaj stabilized, so I was able to put her down on it and follow the others into the habitat.

This is not the asterisk, but like, that's not how pronouns work. You say, "Doctor Gurathin had a gurney and guided it to us." That's correct because the “it” there is referring back to the “gurney”.

Now, the next sentence, "Over and Arada had managed to get Bharadwaj stabilized, so, I was able to put her down on it.” That, it it's, that should just say “the gurney” because that “it” is no longer connected back to the gurney, because there's all these other nouns interrupting the flow of the fucking thing.

Nouns with names.

She does this all the time. It's, It's very, it all the fucking time and it causes so much unnecessary confusion, especially when there's like 50 characters in the room.

But anyways, uh, nouns and pronouns, you have to imagine them connected by little fucking threads. You say the noun, aka somebody's name, uh, like [taps on the cardboard] Cardboard. You can have the rest of

the sentence go out over, and any pronouns you say must reflect the last noun spoken.

You can't say — you can't say “Overse and Arada and Bharadwaj” and then just say “it” when that “it” is for the gurney which is not anywhere connected by this fucking, this fucking train of words, because all these other nouns are interrupting it and cutting that thread.

That's the most basic way I can explain that shit.

And this is a problem — people who use the same pronouns. Yeah, this is a problem in a lot of fanfiction, um because fanfiction is most people's first attempt at writing. So they they really fucking hate using the characters names, for some reason. But then they, they, so they don't want to use the characters names.

So then you end up with situations where there's like two guys talking, and nobody, probably not even the author at that point, has any clue who is saying or doing what, because they just refuse to just say their

name, so the there's no noun for the pronoun to be referencing and it just ends up a fucking mess.

That's all you got to do.

Especially because — I'm going to go on such a tangent. I literally have an 11,000 word fanfiction for this series where I just make up shit tons of everything because you kind of have to, because there's no world building here. And I made up a whole bunch of shit to make a fake fucking setting specifically to showcase how much of nothing is in here.

And I made up an entire fucking original character for Mensah's kids, who is coming out to Murderbot as non-binary and using it/its pronouns. And you know why I did that? Because people don't know how to fucking write.

Like genuinely, people don't know how to write and claim “uh well, you couldn't have done this in third person point of view, Um, because then you wouldn't know whose pronouns are being referred to.”

And it's like, no, you just genuinely don't know how to fucking write. Just go to fanfiction.net. Yes, I fucking posted it on fanfiction.net. Search for um, it's literally titled “Something About Hope and Kindness and Killing the Rich”. That's the name. Go look that up and read that.

(from offscreen, pointedly) Yes, because that's a fanfiction title.

Yeah, that's a fanfiction title. Could maybe be a title for a book if it were a thingy that's not part of a series.

Anyways, go read that if you literally just need the most basic example of “Yeah, it's literally not difficult in any way to write about multiple characters who all use the same pronouns without causing confusion.”

It's just that most people trying and failing to do this genuinely do not know how to write. They genuinely just fucking do not properly connect the pronoun to the noun it's referencing.

Anyways, yeah, this sentence, uh,

> Oversee and Arada had managed to get Bharadwaj stabilized, so I was able to put her down on it and follow the others into the habitat.

That should just say — and this is supposed to be professionally edited and professionally published, which is their justification for charging you 17 plus dollars for this.

Any fucking editor worth a penny should have just fucking taken the “it” out of that sentence and made it so that it reads, "Overse and Arada had managed to get Bharadwaj stabilized, so I was able to put her down on the gurney and follow them into the habitat” because then the rest of the sentence is

> and follow the others into the habitat

And that's just fucking unnecessary, because they're all — everybody who's being followed is — again, again, it's just the pronouns.

Everybody who's being followed into the habitat has already been mentioned here. It's Doctors Gurathin, Overse, Arada, and Bharadwaj. So, all Murderbot has to do is follow *them*. We don't have to specify here “and follow the others”.

That's a — that's a slightly different thing usage of pronouns, but it's still like the basic concept. You already established the nouns. Now you can just say “I followed them”.

Anyways,

> the humans headed for medical and I stopped to send the little hopper commands to lock and seal itself. Then I locked the outer doors. Through the security feed, I told the drones to widen our perimeter so I'd have more warning if something big came at us. I also set some monitors on the seismic centers to alert me to anomalies just in case the hypothetical something big decided to tunnel in.

And I just want to point out that like all of these things they're doing are completely and utterly like, ridiculous. And it's not even being framed as like, “yeah, we know we're being paranoid, but we we're just — we're not going to be able to sleep unless we do this shit.”

Because they were on a coastal island somewhere, some fucking distance away. We don't know how long because there's just a fucking page-break time-skip. Not even telling us how much time has passed, but they had to fly away from that island where the not-graboid was, in a helicopter, and now they're in a mountainous valley on a plateau.

The graboid from the fucking beachy island literally who knows how many kilometers away. It's not going to come up into this fucking mountain to get them.

But they just do all of this shit and it's like — as though it's a realistic possibility that it's going to come and break into their thing instead of just like, it's just, it doesn't make sense when you actually think about it. Like it's *understandable* for them to

want to do this, but like, somebody needs to acknowledge that this is kind of irrational behavior.

Anyways,

> After I secured the habitat, I went back to what was called the security ready room, which was where weapons, ammo, perimeter alarms, drones, and all the other supplies pertaining to security were start were stored.

As my twin has pointed out, this is more — Oh, we haven't even — I haven't even mentioned the corporate speak word vomit yet, but um this is our first example of that.

(to person offscreen) Hand me the fancy bookmark so I can get a drink of water without losing my spot. Look at this crazy bookmark. I don't know if it'll show up crazy on there, but it's like so fucking 3D. [looks at bookmark, grimaces] I actually don't want to look at it. That hurt my eyes.

Oh, I got to I got to make a note on my notepad for uh “corporate speak, but unironic”.

[typing on computer off screen with one hand] These are not words I am typing. It's just kind of letters.

Um, you will see as we go into this series, and you have suffered through it yourself if you've read this series, Martha Wells unironically does corporate speak.

She takes something that should be maybe two words maximum, and turns it into 15. And it's literally just so she can seem smart. And the only thing it does is confuse everybody and just make it so you have no idea what the fuck is going on.

Like, “security ready room”. Just call that an armory, because it's an armory. That's where you keep all the weapons and armor and equipment. It's an armory. But she's calling it a security ready room.

Now, that's taking one word and turning it into three. That's like, the *least bad* thing she does. And as we

maybe read all seven books on camera, you're going to suffer along with me, it gets so worse and it just keeps getting worse the longer into the books we go.

This is the least bad example.

And like, part of me wonder, I mean, a very large part of it is probably, again her being told just pad out these stories as much as possible, cuz did I mention?

[holding up book to show the bottom of a page] Please look at this fucking massive gap down here at the bottom of the page, completely and utterly unnecessary.

And then this slightly smaller but still completely unnecessary gap at the top of the page. All of this to try and spread this shit out as much as they possibly can. And even after all that, they didn't even get it to be more than a centimeter — or *even* a centimeter. It's less than this — is less than a centimeter thick after all of this bullshit of theirs.

So, literally, what would this look like if it were actually published not as a scam and just being honest about how long the story really is? I guess we will never know because they're scammers.

Anyways, uh

> after I secured the habitat, I went back to what was called the security ready room, which was where ammo, perimeter alarms, drones, and all the other supplies pertaining to security were stored, including me. I shed what was left of the armor and on MedSystems advice, sprayed wound sealant all over my bad side. I wasn't dripping with blood because my arteries and veins seal automatically.

Why? This is going on the “stop it” list. Just stop.

Martha Wells is a bad writer. She literally will not ever stop.

[typing offscreen] Uh, this needs to also go on the just “contradictory bullshit for no reason”.

Uh, this is bullshit here. Um, hold on.

> I wasn't dripping with blood because my arteries and veins seal automatically, but it wasn't nice to look at.

So again, making — not even again, because this is will be the first time I've said it in this video series.

I've said it so many times in the Alien: Isolation playthrough, but I can understand why most people probably don't want to watch that cuz you'll get nightmares about xenomorphs, but it's fun. You get to watch me get the shit scared out of me. It's very entertaining. I highly recommend it.

Um, so we're just saying, for literally no reason at all, that Murderbot will never be able to bleed to death because its veins automatically seal themselves, including its arteries.

And it's like, okay, so, anytime Murderbot gets injured, we just know, just *already*, right now on page nine, any injury Murderbot gets, we don't

actually have to worry about it, because it it's literally incapable of bleeding to death.

So, that's already taking our stakes and lowering them a massive fucking notch, because now we know we never have to worry about Murderbot bleeding to death, no matter how much it's bleeding, cuz it, it won't bleed.

You can take a fucking cookie cutter and chop out a section of it and it'll only lose as much blood was actively in that section, because it doesn't fucking bleed, because its, its veins and arteries magically seal automatically, *and they do so properly every single time*. No glitches there, even though we're supposed to pretend that, um they're very cheaply made.

It's all bullshit.

We'll get to that later.

> And it hurt though the wound seal did numb it a little. I had already set an eight hour security

> interdiction through HubSystem so nobody could go

Oh, that's the second asterisk.

> so nobody could go outside without me and then set myself as off duty. I checked the main feed but no one was filing any objections to that.

We have two asterisks, because it's bad writing. It's bad writing. [rubbing at mouth] My lip is tingling.

> I was freezing because my temperature controls had given out at some point on the way here and the protective skin that went under my armor was in pieces.

We never get an explanation for what the fuck this suit skin is. It's just referred to like, multiple times in this. No explanation for what the fuck it is, and then it never comes up again in the series ever again, like many things that get brought up in this book and then just tossed aside never —

(from offscreen) that get *established.*

Yeah they are *established* in this book, as part of the thing, and then they just get — they just get ignored and they never come up ever again, and that's just literally bad writing.

Uh where was it? Uh

> The protective skin that went under my armor was in pieces. I had a couple of spares, but pulling one on right now would not be practical or easy. The only other clothing I had was a uniform I hadn't worn yet, and I didn't think I could get it on either. I hadn't needed the uniform because I hadn't been patrolling inside the habitat. Nobody had asked for that because with only eight of them and all friends, it would be a stupid waste of resources, namely me. I dug around one-handed in the storage case until I found the extra human-rated medical kit I'm allowed in case of emergencies and opened it and got the survival blanket out. I wrapped up in it, then climbed into the plastic bed of my

> cubicle. I let the door seal as the white light flickered on.

We also never get an explanation for what the fucking cubicle is supposed to look like, ever. We don't know. Is this some fucking horizontal thing? Is it just a giant coffin in the fucking floor? Lots of people draw them upright even though it's described as a bed that Murderbot is lying on. A plastic bed. Uh but yeah, I, I do have to mention that this fucking, this, this

> protective skin that went under my armor.

We don't — we're never given an explanation for that. And it really fucking bothers me because the first time I was reading this, I'm like, "What the fuck is that?" like, it's, calling it a skin is implying one of two things.

Either it's a literal genuine artificial layer of skin that Murderbot wears, or it's like a wetsuit because those get called uh, just things — skin — because it's a wetsuit. I, I, I assume everybody knows what a wetsuit is. It's the kind of bathing suit. Well, it's not a

bathing suit. It's a swimsuit that like professional divers people go in in the ocean wear. It's it clings to your skin. It completely conforms to your body to protect you and keep you warm and shit.

So, but like, but Murderbot is specifically a cyborg, and on the back of this book is literally getting called an android and a droid. Jesus Christ. Um, which is just a lie.

So that, that imagery, calling it an android, literally untrue and a droid — that's even fucking worse. Um, so then you say it has an artificial skin. You're making it sound like it literally has to put on fake skin over its mechanical body, but that's not actually what's going on here.

So it just doesn't fucking make sense. It literally doesn't make sense. Like, is it fucking underclothes? We don't — We're never going to get an explanation ever again, because it's bad writing, and it just gets dropped like it never existed. And that's bad fucking writing.

> I wrapped up in

again the use of —

I wrapped up in *the blanket*,

> then climbed into the plastic bed of my cubicle. I let the door seal as the white light flickered on. It wasn't much warmer in there.

It's just weird.

> It wasn't much warmer in there, but at least it was cozy.

And like that's never — that, we also never get an explanation for that either, because I don't think that's supposed to be sarcastic.

Like it's not warm, but it's cozy. What? What do you mean cozy?

Like, we could be saying Murderbot has agoraphobia and feels more secure when it's in a small space

because literally nothing can get to it. Like, (begin sarcasm) I don't know, (end sarcasm) say Ripley? Amanda Ripley in the fucking vents. We only got jumped by a xenomorph in the vents one time.

Like we could be doing that. We could say that Murderbot has agoraphobia and that would be entirely fucking justified in having that. But we just never get an explanation for why it is calling this thing cozy.

My — my page. Where did it go? Okay.

It's just there for some fucking reason and just doesn't make sense.

> I connected myself to the resupply and repair leads, leaned back against the wall, and shivered.

And see, that's again making just so much confusion. If it's such a small space that we're calling it — like by calling it cozy, whether that's sarcastic or not, I assume that means that there's barely enough room

for Murderbot to move. But then it also has enough room that it has to lean against the back wall.

> And shivered. MedSystem helpfully informed me that my performance reliability was now at 58% and dropping, which was not a surprise. I could definitely repair in 8 hours and probably mostly regrow

[rolls eyes. sighs. Twice. Leans offscreen to type on computer] Also, no. Hold on. So, that's — I don't, can't type the letter 2 because my broken fucking keyboard. “T ableist bullshit”. Yeah, that's good enough.

Um, Martha Wells is ableist and she absolutely hates physically disabled people, which is another reason that Murderbot magically gets healed no matter what happens to it, because she never wants to let her characters lose in a way that genuinely fucking matters and is a genuine loss.

So, and she considers being physically disabled to losing, and probably worse than fucking death, which

is why Murderbot, despite all of the claims that it's super cheaply made and too expensive to repair, and yet, magically, it can regrow every single injury it ever receives, ever, without any problem. All offcreen without any like,

(from offscreen) in the span of two sentences.

In the span of two sentences, never with any drastic usage of resources that's unsustainable in any way.

There's no consequences to Murderbot ever getting hurt. It will literally always get magically healed, physically perfect, as though it's brand new, no matter where it goes, even when it leaves the company and doesn't have access to this undescribed cubicle anymore.

You can just magically fix it with any random med, medbay. Just, you can go to any random doctor's office and it will magically be healed instantaneously. Doesn't use up any spe, special, special resources. Nothing nothing is ever going to cause it a problem.

So yeah, there's literally no stakes to be found, ever. So, not only can Murderbot not bleed to death, even if it did bleed almost to death, you can just chuck it into a random doctor's office like it's a fucking video game save point that magically restores all your health and shit and it'll be magically fine.

Murderbot will never become physically disabled. It will never even so much as have a fucking tiny little scar.

And it's all because of the ableism and bad writing. And it's bad writing, because we are meant to believe two completely contradictory statements at once:

1) murderbots, aka meat shields, SecUnits, are cheaply made, so they're disposable because they're too — it would be too expensive to repair them, and they are the equivalent of a plastic cup. [holds up a plastic water bottle] Pretend this is a plastic cup. It's it's a water bottle. Same fucking concept. Um, meant to be used once and then thrown away. As opposed to...[looking offscreen] That might be heavy….

[reaches offscreen, comes back with a jar of honey]

As opposed to a glass jar that's got some local honey in it. Yay for us. That's heavy. I'm not holding that.

Murderbot is supposed to be the equivalent of a plastic bottle of water. You use it once and then you're supposed to throw it away. Um, as opposed to a — Huh?

(from offscreen) not if you're poor, you don't.

Shush. That's not You're mes — You're fucking up the metaphor. Shush. Plastic solo cup. Okay... Disposable.

No, we'll just do a paper cup because it's really hard to reuse paper cups cuz they get really gross really fucking fast. We don't have any paper cups here to demonstrate.

Murderbot is one of those stupid cone- shaped paper cups you get at the fucking doctor's office at their cheapo water cooler. It gets gross. It gets wrinkly. It starts falling apart. That's what murderbots are

supposed to be. They're supposed to be disposable. You use them once. If they get so much as a fucking nick, you throw them out, you get a new one, because repairing them is going to cost way more than just getting another one.

But then we're also supposed to accept the fact, completely and utterly contradictory fact, that is not framed as “this is a weird contradiction and it's fucking, it's fucked up.” Doesn't make fucking sense.

It's literally just completely ignored by the story because it's just bad fucking writing and bigotry, specifically ableism.

The second point is, we're first we're told murderbots are completely and utterly disposable. Use them once, throw them away. Don't bother repairing them. But also —

[holds up middle finger while trying to count by accident] not trying to flick you all off, but we just do that. Not trying to flick you all off.

Uh, second point, somehow, miraculously, despite supposedly being disposable, they also won't be able to bleed to death because their veins automatically seal themselves, a thing that would be really expensive to implement.

And also, everybody magically will put in all of the effort required to get them all the way back to 100% every single time there's so much as a problem.

So, it's just two completely fucking bullshit things.

You have to pick one of these things. You can't just do both of these.

And the reason Martha Wells wants the best of both completely fucking contradictory statements and things we're just supposed to pretend are totally happening at the same time, is that she wants the free Tragic Backstory for Murderbot to angst about, by claiming that it's disposable, when it's not actually disposable.

So, it's literally just, “yeah, Murderbot's disposable. That means it has something to be angsty about. That means people will see it as the underdog and relate to it and want to cheer it on, even though it does all kinds of horrible things that nobody should be cheering on.”

So, she wants she wants to be able to say, "Yeah, you got to relate. You got to cheer on Murderbot. It's supposed to be disposable."

But then she doesn't actually want it to be disposable, because that would require Murderbot actually becoming physically disabled, and she would rather kill it than let it become physically disabled.

Also, it's this is a good time.

Um Martha Wells at some point said that she was directly inspired by reading Ann Leckie’s Imperial Radch —

Might be pronounced “radk”, I don't know. Huh?

(from offscreen) I said I say ratch like a ratchet.

Yeah, that's why I'm, I'm saying ratch like a ratchet. Could be rack. I don't know. Uh, [grins] it's good to mispronounce their name. You'll find out if you read them, which you should.

Go read Anne Leckie — A N N, L E C K I E. The Imperial R A D C H. The first book is Ancillary Justice. Go read that. It's — the whole series is free on the Internet Archive because people have donated the books to them which is fanfuckingtastic. Go read those because —

Do we —

— I'm going to go over a very short condensed version of the Arthurian legend legend metaphor thing here.

Martha Wells read The Imperial Radch series and then she wrote this as a direct inspiration from the Imperial Radch series. Ancillary Justice in particular, probably.

When you — read *these* first, okay? Read these first, and then go read The Imperial Radch series, okay? And laugh. I want you to laugh. I don't even want you to laugh. You'll do it by yourself. You will be so fucking infuriated.

And the, the Arththeran legend thing I'm bringing up here is um there was this Christian dude in 15-something-something. He wrote down the story of — the first written down that we've found so far, story about King —

(laughing at self) King Lancelot? — Sir Lancelot the knight. He wrote it down. Somebody else was telling him the story. Some, like countess lady or maybe she was just a courtesan from the court. She might have...I think she was a countess though.

Some lady was telling him the story that other people have been telling for fucking ever, because most people couldn't read back then. You just told stories orally.

She was telling him the story, and then he wrote it down for her.

And a thing people have pointed out when discussing that, and whether or not the guy who wrote it down is the one who invented the story, which he's not — you can see in real life, we have a modern example.

We have the Murderbot Diaries, [gestures with book] directly inspired by —

(to person offscreen) want to go grab Ancillary Justice so I can gesture meaningfully with I? (the person offscreen leaves the room)

It — I am going somewhere with this, and I promise it's important. It's relevant.

[grimaces] I think I'm gonna have to get a different bookmark because this one's too 3D. It's like hurting my eyes to look at it. It's not supposed to do that.

Also, I forget the guy's name. Search B L I T, Blit by um, I don't know what the fuck the author's name is. Let me search quick. I'm waiting for that book.

(from offscreen) These books have the exact same market price of $16.

(laughing wildly) Really? Let me see. Yeah. (in exaggerated shocked voice) Look at that! Look at that! Look at that! All right.

Now, we have Ancillary Justice because I am, I'm, we are doing this. I'm not going to apologize. It's correct. You'll see where I'm going with this.

Okay. In in the Arthurian legend, we have The Knight of the Cart. That's the story, um that was the first story ever — most usually considered the first story ever written about Sir Lancelot in the whole myth of King Arthur and all of his knights and crap like that, yada yada yada.

Um, and you can tell, you can literally tell *just* from reading the story, that this is not the first version of

this story ever to exist, and that the guy who wrote it down was transcribing it from somebody who didn't — who was just kind of missing bits and pieces from the original story, complete story, and forgot to tell this guy, or like, maybe he was in a rush and the other person just didn't have time to tell him.

Either way, you can tell from reading The Knight of the Cart — it's on Project Gutenberg, it's on the Internet Archive. You can find it anywhere. I would recommend the one on the Internet Archive because I added paragraph breaks in. There are no paragraph breaks, you have to suffer through massive blocks of text because that's just how they wrote in medieval, literally like 15-something-something.

(from offscreen) They had to make that page count work.

Yeah, books were fucking expensive back then. They could not waste any space at all.

What I'm getting at here is that you can go read The Knight of the Cart. It's, it's a good story. I enjoy it. Sir

Lancelot is actually the only fucking Arththeran knight I even remotely like, cuz everybody else is just...evil. He's like, nice. Everybody else is just like pure fucking evil.

Anyways, um you can tell when you read The Knight of the Cart that some of these things, it's just, it doesn't really add up, and you'll be thinking to yourself, “well, we can just...maybe it's just some weird medieval thing that it doesn't — that those two things don't line up?”

But no, because then you read the rest of this guy's things and they they make perfect sense.

So, and people are like, "Yeah, this is this is like literally proof that no, he didn't invent this story. He he wrote it down from somebody telling it to him and *telling it to him badly*.”

So in that, we have a scene where some guy, I forget who, probably Gawaine, doesn't really matter, walking out. Another guy says “hey can I borrow your horse I, it's really important!” So the guy's like, "Oh, okay.

Yeah, here you go. Here's my horse." And then the other guy runs off with the horse.

And then this guy keeps walking for like, five feet, just like a few minutes later, and magically comes upon a giant scene of epic proportions, where a giant battle has taken place, and it's already over.

And it's like, “but there was not enough time for that battle to have happened with the dude who who took his horse?”

And the reason that happens is because the person who told the man who wrote down this story forgot to mention “he walked for several days and then came upon this scene.”

Now just — this is all on topic. I swear to fuck.

[holds up Ancillary Justice] This is Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie. You can actually read that font.

[Laughter, grimacing] Oh god, I don't like this bookmark. Find me another bookmark. Just find me a receipt. It's like killing my eyes.

All right, let's do this.

Let's get my ruler.

All right. Yeah, the Murderbot Diaries. We already measured that.

Let's measure this just for good measure before I tell you how much this cost. Let me get the freaking camera right. All right.

This is literally 3 cm. So, it's literally [jumps] — Ow! Fucking, fuck you, foot!

If I do that, it's because I've dislocated my foot because I moved my fucking foot.

Anyways, literally three times — more than three times, because this thing [gestures with All Systems Red] doesn't even get to a centimeter.

[holding the books next to eachother] And this is uh it's like threeish centimeters. So, I can probably just photoshop them.

This also cost $16.

They're charging the same price for this as for this. And let me show you. Let me show you page one, chapter one. (begin sarcasm)You won't believe it. It's fucking crazy. (end sarcasm) Look at this. Page one, chapter one, and it's page one!

They're not claiming it's page nine!

They're not counting a 50 million things at the start!

And look, because I did it with that one, we're doing it here.

We're doing: one, two, three, four, five, and then the blank page. And then we're already starting — just to be fucking thorough.

That, and they've got a whole — [looking at the back of the book] I'm not sure what all this is. I forgot to check.

Cool. All of these — and they show you by making these pages a different color. [holds book up] This is a whole bunch of interviews and extras and stuff like that. Like fun fucking epic shit.

And they show you that by making those pages a different color. They're gray.

Anyways, what I'm getting at here, you — read The Murderbot Diaries first.

This is imperative. Read this [All Systems Red] first, then read this [Ancillary Justice] series. It's, it's The Knight of the Cart. It is the modern equivalent of “some fucking guy told this guy very haphazardly the story of how Sir Lancelot and rescued Queen Guinevere, but fucked up a whole bunch of stuff in the middle. So what we're left with is a story that doesn't really fucking make any sense and is completely contradictory.”

We just got told the guy just now left with the horse, five minutes later, there's already been a giant battle having taken place involving the dude with the horse. And the dude who gave him the horse didn't hear it at all.

I swear to God this is relevant. I'm going to read these on camera after I'm done this shitty series. Exactly so that we can compare it, and you'll get to watch me cry, because — and resist the urge to throw this across the room, in a good way. I, I didn't realize before reading these that there — it was possible to want to throw a book across the room because it's so good.

But you will have to watch me resist that urge. Probably I will just pick — [opening book by guessing] I'll say like right there like 50% of the way through [flips a chunk more pages] maybe 80% of the way through. You'll have to watch me resist the urge to throw this across the room because it's so fucking fantastic. I'm telling you now.

Read these, [holding up All Systems Red] and then read these [holding up Ancillary Justice].

It's The Knight of the Cart. This [tapping Ancillary Justice] is the proper story. This is the real story that makes sense. It tells what it's trying to tell. It makes sense.

And then [All Systems Red] this is the shitty version written by somebody who who who fucking failed to understand literally every single fucking facet of every single fucking issue going on in here. I'm not even joking.

This is this is the shitty version of *this,* written by somebody so fucking racist, ableist, transmisic, and biologically essentialist — which is the, the, fucking keystone for all of Martha Wells's bigotry. It's all of her biological essentialism.

Look up biological essentialism if you don't know what it is. You can pretty much figure it out from the name, but if you can't, just Google it. Biological essentialism.

Martha Wells read this fucking masterpiece, and then, her bigotry took everything good about this [Ancillary Justice] and fucked it up completely and utterly until it is unrecognizable in here [All Systems Red].

But reading this shit [All Systems Red], and then reading this [Ancillary Justice], and you can tell every single fucking step of the way, everything that Martha Wells in her bigotry fucking failed so completely to understand and everything she's trying to replicate without understanding why it works.

I swear you'll get to see it in real life because I'm gonna be reading this whole fucking serie, because we have it now, because we just got Translation State. Well, we got Translation State like last year, but I'm counting —

(from offscreen) ...did I say that?

What? What?

(from offscreen) There's officially a new novel in the works in the...

[grins] Yay. It's so fantastic. Yeah, uh, if you did not hear that from behind the cardboard, there's another one in the series apparently being written right now. So, probably by the time we get done reading these on camera, we'll be able to read that one.

Depends on how long this takes, I will try to be faster about it.

I will be reading all of these on camera when we're done this shit, so, you can see exactly what I'm talking about, and you, could, too can go, "What in the absolute fuck?"

It's, It's delightful. [tapping Ancillary Justice] This is delightful. [gestures with All Systems Red] That's shit.

(to person offscreen) Stick that back for me or stick it over there. That's only two popular.

Anyways, also related to this bookmark searing my eyeballs: If you want to read some good free science fiction, go to infinity plus you spell it all out infinityplus.co.ukstories/blit.htm. That's the URL. It's

— the background on this is like kind of a lighter cyan, so if you struggle with eye strain, you can just copy it all into a document or something, or I don't know, make it —take a screenshot and make it black and white. Read that.

This guy, David Langford, has a whole little miniseries of science fiction that's fantastic.

It's it's not related to this at all. I just thought of it because that bookmark was trying to kill my brain.

Anyways, that that whole little series is also just demonstrating what science fiction can be.

This [holding up All Systems Red] is science fiction for people who fucking hate science fiction, and that's not a compliment to anybody involved, including Martha Wells. That's that's an insult.

Anyways, where the fuck were we? Um...

Um...Oh, yeah.

So, Murderbot saying…

> I could definitely repair in 8 hours and probably mostly regrow my damaged organic components, but at 58% I doubted I could get any analysis done in the meantime. So, I sent all the security feeds to alert me if anything tried to eat the habitat and started to call up a supply of the media I had downloaded from the entertainment feed. I hurt too much to pay attention to anything with the story, but the friendly noise would keep me company.

I have a question there. Why does Murderbot need to be doing any analysis? And why does it want to be doing any analysis?

Because that just seems like completely unnecessary extra work that it wouldn't be volunteering to do. Nobody's told it it needs to do analysis, so why is it thinking about doing analysis?

That's just weird. Anyways, um

then someone knocked on the cubicle door.

And this is, this —I will give her this point. This is done correctly.

This is just one little paragraph all by itself.

Then someone knocked on the cubicle door.

That's correct. That's technically correct. And by technically I mean yeah, you're doing it correctly. As in that there's a theoretical technical manual for writing doesn't actually exist.

That's how you set up tension because we're interrupting Murderbot's stream of consciousness by somebody suddenly knocking on the door out of nowhere. So, having that be a short little paragraph, that's correct.

I stared at it and lost all and lost track of all my neatly arrayed inputs. Like an idiot, I said, "Uh, yes."

Although, I will...I do kind of have to immediately take that back, because that line of dialogue, and it should have gone:

“Then someone knocked on the cubicle door.”

Paragraph break. That's done correctly.

“I stared at it and lost all track and lost track of all my neatly arrayed inputs.”

And then that should be its own paragraph, but then she has attached to that part, “Like an idiot, I said, ‘Uh, yes?’”

No, you got it right the first time, but then fucked up the second half.

Should —“like an idiot. I said, ‘Uh, yes.’ should be its own paragraph to further separate it from —

1) knocking on the door.

2) The consequence of Murderbot just scattering all of its stuff

3) and then Murderbot speaking

That —those should all be three separate paragraphs.

It would even give them another excuse to pad out the runtime, but for a good reason this time!

Anyways, so yeah, we we had one compliment and then immediately had to take it back. That's sad.

> Doctor Mensahh opened the door and peered in at me. I'm not good at guessing actual humans ages, even with all the visual entertainment I watch. People in the shows don't usually look much like people in real life, at least not in the good shows.
> She had dark brown skin and lighter brown hair cut very short. And I'm guessing she wasn't young or she wouldn't be in charge.

And that's the only description we will ever get of Doctor Mensahh. That's it. That's the extent of the description. Dark brown skin and lighter brown brown hair cut very short.

And lots of pe —lots of fucking racists in the fandom decide to interpret “dark brown skin and lighter brown hair” as being paler than this cardboard, with blond hair because they're fucking racist, and cannot follow the most basic description in the fucking world of “dark brown skin and lighter brown hair.”

So they literally interpret that as lighter than this cardboard behind me here, with blonde hair.

Because they're racist and they will do everything in their power to whitewash every fucking character of color they get their hands on.

And Doctor Mensahh is the only character out of the other seven fucking slave owner characters in this whole entire book. She's the only one that gets a description. That's this tiny sentence. “She had dark brown skin and lighter brown hair cut very short. And

I'm guessing she wasn't young or she wouldn't be in charge.”

That's the only description we get for one of the nine fucking protagonists in the series in this whole book if you count Murderbot, which you should, because there's literally eight slave owner characters.

And yes, Doctor Mensahh here, with her dark brown skin and lighter brown hair, she's a slave owner. And yes, that's a fact.

These people went solar systems out of their way to rent out a slave.

That makes them slave owners. They're not here for any fucking reason at all. I'm pretty sure I mentioned this in the first video. Shouldn't have to rehash it.

Um, no, it's not racist to say she's a slave owner cuz she's, ~she's got dark brown skin, she's Black!~

She's not a real fucking person.

She's a fictional character made up by a white racist white woman from Texas, Martha Wells, specifically to do slavery apologism with.

Making the character, fictional characters, slave owners, making them brown and Black, that's not some brand new fucking thing that's never been done before. It's an established racist trope.

White authors fucking love to take minorities like Black —Black and brown people, and make them slave owners in their stories to pretend that white supremacy doesn't really exist, and “slavery isn't a racial issue. White people were enslaved in history, too. Look at the Romans. That's totally the exact same fucking thing as chattel slavery” and the, fucking, all of that.

Martha Wells making her pure cinnamon roll slave owner characters that we're supposed to like Black and brown people —tokenized Black and brown people, because literally only Doctor Mensah gets a fucking description explicitly marking her as not white, telling us she has dark brown skin.

Nobody else gets a fucking single description, which has allowed the fandom to decide that fucking Doctor Gurathin is the literal Aryan fucking...I just forgot the word…

(from offscreen) ideal.

Ideal. Like they literally —you —the fucking Nazi meme. That's him. That's what —that's how they fucking draw Doctor Gurathin, at least before the fucking also-racist TV show came out.

Um, yeah, they take the character with the name Gurathin and decide he's literally the Aryan ideal, blonde, blue-eyed, all of the fucking literal Nazi shit, because so much —so much —they fixated on him to make him Murderbots's gay love interest because, you know, the fandom’s —

Racist fandom always worshiping two white gay men.

And if there are no white gay men in the story, they will whitewash and misgender and erase the canon

queer sexuality of any character necessary to make them into cis white gay men.

That's what they — that's what so many fucking sections of this goddamn fandom did, probably still are doing. They're quieter about it now. Or maybe I've just fucking blocked them all.

They are really fucking out there. There's so many huge swathes of this fandom who do nothing but write porn featuring Murderbot and Doctor Gurathin. Both of them whitewashed. Murderbot being misgendered.

All of this bullshit, all of this bullshit.

Anyways, what was I fucking saying? Yeah, the PreservationAux team are slave owners.

And the only reason that they are people of color is part of the slavery apologism, because any actual author who thinks slavery is genuinely horrific would never ask you to fucking agree that slave owners are good people.

Um, all this shit, it's just more racism. Martha Wells pinning the slavery apologism on fictional Black and brown people that she literally made up to agree with her. That's what's that's what's going on here.

That's not less racist. It's more racist.

You cannot deny the fact that these people are slavery — they're, they're slave owners. They objectively are. They rented out a fucking slave. They are slave owners.

There is no meaningful fucking difference, morally, between renting out a slave and buying a fucking slave. They own Murderbot. That's literally even — we'll get to the end of the book. They own Murderbot right fucking now with the start of the story. Murderbot belongs to these fucking people. It's literally programmed to belong to them. That's really fucking crucial. Not even on purpose — you, you'll see when we get to the end of the book.

Blah blah blah.

> She said, "Are you all right? I saw your status report." “Uh,” that was the point where I realized that I should have just not answered and pretended to be in stasis. I pulled the blanket around my chest, hoping she hadn't seen any of the missing chunks. Without the armor holding me together, it was much worse. “Fine.” So, I'm awkward with actual humans. It's not paranoia.

More slavery apologism here.

> It's not paranoia about my hacked governor module. And it's not them, it's me. I know I'm a horrifying murderbot, and they know it. And it makes both of us nervous, which makes me even more nervous. Also, if I'm not in the armor, then it's because I'm wounded and one of my organic parts may fall off and plop on the floor at any moment, and no one wants to see that.

There's not a single thing here that's really not just slavery apologism — and for further reference to,

another thing that's a huge issue is Murderbot is framing being so grievously injured that it's literally fucking falling apart. And that's being portrayed as a joke. And this is...I'll get into it later, but again, Murderbot is saying, "I don't like being around humans because I know I am evil just like all the other slaves, but I'm better than everybody else."

And it's, and it's, yeah, the whole

~one of one of my organic parts may fall off and plop on the floor at any moment, and no one wants to see that.~

So again, um, we're taking a thing. Murderbot should be fucking terrified of slave owners because of its PTSD. It should be fucking absolutely anxious around them because of all the times people like this have tortured it and traumatized it.

But instead, we just get told it's just generic um, social anxiety because Murderbot has no self-esteem.

It's not because people have literally tortured it in the past, it doesn't have anxiety around slave owners because they've genuinely all harmed it in the past, no, it's just general, general anxiety, not very specific at all.

And also, we're taking — we're, we're making a joke out of all of this. And that's uh well, I'll just keep — I'll keep going.

Martha Wells — everybody read who's read this book, you know it's a funny, light-hearted book. That's what it's trying to be.

Martha Wells wants to get up on her high horse and yell at you that if you thought this was funny or cute or light-hearted *just because she wrote it this way*, literally undercutting the fucking tension here with a joke before any can properly build, and that happens every single time there's any moment of tension, it immediately gets undercut with a joke.

Just like back in the first part of this where we laugh about all of the humans screaming because it's like it's supposed to be a funny scene.

Um, what was I fucking saying?

Oh yeah, she wants to claim that if you think this is funny and light-hearted and cute *because she literally wrote it that way,* then she is claiming that you are willfully ignorant and are just being willfully ignorant and she's saying this to people — she's giving literal speeches like this to like schools.

I don't know if she's getting paid for it or if they asked her to do this, I don't know how that works, but she's giving speeches like this claiming that her audience is willfully ignorant on purpose, because she doesn't like the fact that the story *she wrote specifically to be light-hearted and funny* is treated the way she fucking wrote it, which is lighthearted and funny.

That whole fucking scene at the start of this, there's zero detail that lets you actually feel fear for these fucking characters unless you are going out of your

way to actually imagine all the shit that's actually happening, and how that *should* feel.

But the story — then this overpriced shitty book in front of you is not actually providing that.

Somebody getting attacked by a graboid and almost dying from it, and then Murderbot almost also almost dying from it from being bitten by it, that whole thing could take up so much more space if we had actually take the time to describe it, describe the feelings, describe the pain instead of just literally glossing over all of it so that you can't take any of it seriously because it's like it barely fucking exists.

And then Martha Wells is going out and giving speeches to people who haven't read this book — so they don't know how drastically they're being lied to, until they pick it up afterward and go, "What do you mean you're — what you what the fuck do you mean you're calling out people and been getting mad at people for saying this is lighthearted? You literally wrote it that way.!”

There's nothing about this story that allows you to actually take it seriously in the context it's given in. And it's this is just the start of it.

> “Fine.”
> She frowned. The report said you lost 20% of your body mass.
> It'll grow back, I said.

And again, right there, that's another joke. That's another don't take this seriously because ~oh yeah, Murderbot lost 20% of its body mass. It'll grow back. Who gives a shit?~

And literally in less than 8 hours, it will regrow all of that shit, and we don't even get the details of what exactly its injuries look like to let us see how serious this is supposed to be.

Even though we're literally getting told it's so little of a deal that it it can just be magically fixed within 8 hours. Just go to sleep overnight and all of the magical injuries will — all of the injuries will be

completely and utterly magically healed like they never happened.

And then Martha Wells wants to complain that people don't take this story seriously when she — every single choice —

I'm a writer. You may not be a writer, but I'm a fucking writer. Every single choice Martha Wells made in the writing of this story is designed to make it funny and light-hearted. I could give this book to my mom and she could read it. That's saying something. I know she's not even going to watch these videos cuz the first 20 minutes would make her fall asleep.

Uh,

> “it'll grow back,” I said. I know to an actual human I probably looked like I was dying. my injuries were the equivalent of a human losing a limb or two plus most of their blood volume.

And it's like we're getting just told this shit, there's no description anywhere before this to tell us that that's how injured it is.

And then we're not even allowed to take this description here seriously at all. It's just the basic violation of the concept of show don't tell, and that is exactly why it's impossible to actually take anything in this story seriously, and it's why it's lighthearted and light reading and why so many people uh say, "Oh yeah, it's such a fun series. I just turn my brain off. I don't think about it at all." And then, "uh maybe it's a bad sign that I forget every single thing that happens when I'm not actively reading that. But I'm fine with that."

That's a literal review I've read.

Yeah, it's literally designed not to be taken seriously. But then Martha Wells wants to have it both ways where she will get up on a fucking literal stage and, and tell you the audience person who's read this book before coming here, I hope maybe not, um that you're willfully ignorant if you took this book in the way that

she fucking wrote it, which is a light-hearted comedy about cute robot and slave owners that we're not supposed to admit are slave owners, cuz we're just supposed to see them as cute little cinnamon rolls.

That's the book she wrote.

But then she wants to get up on a stage and claim that *you* are willfully ignorant and an idiot for not taking this seriously, even though she literally made it impossible for you to take it seriously.

Anyways,

> “I know but still.” She eyed me for a long moment. So long I tapped the security feed for the mess where the non-wounded members of the group were sitting around the table talking. They were discussing the possibility of more underground fauna and wishing they had intoxicants. That seemed pretty normal. She continued, "You are very good with — “

Oh, yeah. Uh, you will love the Imperial Radch series. You'll see every single thing. That's one of the things. We just went past it. You'll see.

> She continued, "You are very good with Doctor Volescu. I don't think the others realized...They were very impressed.
> “It's part of the emergency med instru — .

It's weird there that med is not capitalized. It should be. That's weird. That's on page “21”. What's 21 - 9? I'm not doing math.

Yeah, the word med there should be capitalized because med is always referring to MedSystem.

Yeah, we're on page 12, which they're claiming is page 21.

Uh,

> “It's part of the emergency med instructions, calming victims.” I tugged the blanket tighter.

Also, again, I do have to point out now before we get into the very hilarious part, uh, Martha Wells is really fucking bad at dialogue. So, if you just look at the dialogue, the conversations really don't fucking make sense, because all of the characters just act like they're mind readers. It, it gets really bad later. I'll, I'll tell you when we get there. You'll, you'll notice it and then I'll tell you.

> “It's part of the emergency med instructions, calming victims.” I tugged the blanket tighter so she didn't see anything awful. I could feel something lower down leaking.

And it's like, okay, that's another contradiction. I got to put that in my little notepad on here.

Murderbot just says that something is leaking, but we were explicitly told that it doesn't leak blood because it's wound — Its, its, its veins and arteries both seal automatically.

But now we're getting told that something is leaking.

And this is supposed to be and — and this is meant to be funny. This isn't “I can feel I'm literally bleeding to fucking death and dying”.

No, it's supposed to be funny. It's hahaha, isn't that awkward? Uh “I could feel something lowered down leaking” because Murderbot is — It's supposed to be funny how Murderbot is just magically bleeding even though we were literally told just a few maybe like two pages ago that it's literally impossible for it to bleed.

Again, it's just bad writing.

Like, if you're not a writer, you're probably thinking, "Well, that's that's just a nitpick. Actual fucking writer here. I write." This isn't the kind of nitpick you leave in your story. If you actually give any shits at all about basic quality, you don't leave in basic contradictions like that. That's just genuinely bad fucking writing.

Uh,

> yes, but the MedSystem was prioritizing Bharadwaj and didn't check —

Also, I got to interrupt this shitty dialogue because why the fuck — you know, if somebody is severely injured and you're concerned about their safety, maybe don't go talking their fucking ear off while they're trying to heal in the hospital bed?

I got to say, that's just really fucking weird. Like we're not supposed to see anything weird with what Mensahh is doing right now, but it's like it's in the hospital bed that will heal it. Why are you fucking interrupting that?

Like they all know what it's cubicle does. It's the repair cubicle. It's going to heal it. Why are you here talking all this shit at it when it's like you're — It's just weird.

Also, it — Yeah, it's just weird. None of this behavior, like retroactively, from what we'd know of the characters from later books, none of this behavior makes sense.

They wouldn't just send Doctor Mensahh, they would all be waiting outside the fucking room or they would at least be talking about her going to visit Murderbot.

None of this makes sense for the characters. It's just bad writing.

And yes, it is bad writing because if you're going to write a series, you don't *have* to plan ahead. You probably fucking should, but you don't *have* to. But at the very least, once you've read written book one, you're starting on book two, you have to reread book one before writing that, and multiple times you keep going back and forth to make sure what happens in book two doesn't contradict what happened in book one.

So based on everything in all the rest of the books in this series where we get to know these characters, Doctor Mensahh, Rathi, Gurathin, etc., none of what they're doing in here makes sense, and it's not in a ~they've changed and grown as people and gotten character development~ They don't have character

development. They are fucking flatter than this fucking cardboard cuz this cardboard is like —

Is it thicker than this book? It's — this cardboard is only slightly less thick than this book.

These characters are flatter than this cardboard. They don't get character development.

Uh, where was I?

Oh, yeah. This this long chunk of dialogue. It's not long by itself inherently, but like it's a long chunk of dialogue when somebody's lying in a hospital bed trying to fucking heal.

> Yes, but the

the uh, Mrderbot said,

> it's part of the emergency med instructions, calming victims.
> Yes, but the MedSystem was prioritizing Barwage and didn't check Velescu's vital signs.

> It didn't take into account the shock of the event and it expected him to be able to leave the scene on its — on his own.

And it's like she's arguing with Murderbot right now when Murderbot has lost 20% of his body mass. It's like this is just a very... bizarre thing to do, when we're supposed to think these people are good people.

And it's like, why are you bothering the person who's literally in a fucking hospital bed trying to get healed?

And it — it's never gets brought up as this what she's doing. But it's just very strange. Like I didn't even notice this the first few times reading this, but this is a very — it's bizarre. It's bizarre.

Like the one thing you always get told to people about people in hospitals and shit is don't make that don't keep fucking talking their ear off when they're trying to heal. Don't keep making them just let them go to fucking sleep and shit. Stuff like that.

> On the feed, it was clear that the others had reviewed field camera video. Field camera video. They were saying things like

Oh, this is the lie. This Martha Wells is so bad at writing. She's so bad at writing. This is so bad. Oh my god. Because now retroactively and it goes the same for ART, asshole research transport / Perihelion. It it's — she did this in the books of the Raksura too. She's so bad at writing.

This next paragraph is so bad retroactively once you've read the rest of the series because —

— Should I, should I explain to them why this is going to be bad or should I read it and then explain?

(from offcamera) Read it and then explain.

All right. Cardboard says gonna read it and then explain.

So, okay. Here's this next paragraph.

> On the feed, it was clear that the others had reviewed field camera video

that could be shortened. Uh,

> they were saying things like, "I didn't even know it had a face."

I have to close my eyes. Just that's that's that's just the first sentence in this little very big chunk of paragraph. That's so — it's like evil. Evil's the word for it when you read the rest of the books in this series and take things in the most — the only logical way forward in universe, these people are evil.

> On the feed, it was clear that the others had reviewed field camera video. They were saying things like, “I didn't even know it had a face.” I'd been in armor since we arrived, and I hadn't unsealed the helmet when I was put when I was around them. There was no specific reason. The only part of me they would have seen was my head and its standard generic human. But they didn't want to talk to me and I definitely didn't

> want to talk to them. On duty would distract me and off duty… I didn't want to talk to them. Mensahh had seen me when she signed the rental contract, but she had barely looked at me and I had barely looked at her because again, murderbot plus actual human equals awkwardness. Keeping the armor on all the time cuts down on unnecessary interaction.

All right. Well, apparently not all of that paragraph is the evil part. I mean, that's also just more slavery, apologism, and dehumanization in there, but the thing we're focusing on here is

> they were saying things like, "I didn't even know it had a face."

This is the slavery apologism. And out of universe, this is the slavery apologism.

This is us pretending. Martha Wells telling us, "Oh, um, don't be mad at them for renting out a slave. Don't be mad at them for being slave owners. They

just didn't know um the slave they were renting out was a person. (sighs)

And if you've read the rest of this series already, or at least even partway through it, you know these motherfuckers are lying through their godamn teeth. And more than lying through their godamn teeth, they are staging this in the hopes that Murderbot will notice them saying these things, so that it thinks that they genuinely had no idea it was a person, because

> they were saying things like, "I didn't even know it had a face."

A thing that is objectively untrue. We know these characters.

I am just speechless.

This is what happens when you are A) racist, B) a shit writer, C) racist, D) a shit writer. It's so many layers. So many layers. So many [__] layers. I —

> They were saying things like, "I didn't even know it had a face."

Because the only shit explanation for them saying this shit is that like they have to be staging this conversation legitimately in the hopes that Murderbot will notice so that it won't be mad at them.

Because they know they know that it's a fucking person. They've known the entire time that it's a person. We know from everything else revealed in the rest of the series that they know that robots are people.

They know that you're supposed to treat robots like people.

They knew Murderbot this whole goddamn fucking time was a real fucking living breathing person, and yet they've been on this planet survey planet for probably a month just treating Murderbot like a a fucking mindless object.

Literally not acknowledging it as a person, treating it like the fucking slave it is, because they're slave owners.

And now only as soon as it saves their lives by risking its fucking life by proving it's One of The Good Ones do they suddenly go, ‘maybe we should treat it like a person. Huh?’

But — and they lie because Martha Wells has to try and make us like these slave owners and has to tell us — has to try and convince us that um, we shouldn't be angry at them in any way.

Um because it's not their fault. They just didn't — How were they supposed to know that robots are people and that slavery is bad? You got to forgive these poor little innocent slave slave owners!

It's like, 1) not how that works, 2) Especially not how that works when the entire rest of the series exists to show us these characters knew exactly what they were doing in this book because that is how

chronology works. That's how logic works. That's how the timeline of events works.

In universe. These people know exactly what they're doing. They knew Murderbot was a person this whole time.

They are now lying to Murderbot specifically so that it won't be angry at them for enslaving it. so that they can pretend they just had no fucking clue that slavery was wrong.

Even though every single other book in the rest of the series reveals that this is a flatout fucking lie. This is Martha Wells, meta-verse, this is Martha Wells lying to us. This is her getting us to forgive these characters for renting out a slave because they just didn't know it was wrong. They, they had no idea that “robots” were people even though Murderbot is literally not a robot. It's a cyborg. Martha Wells has fucking admitted this.

She's just writing these books to make that as unclear as possible because she knows that if she tells

everybody they're cyborgs that everybody would be rightfully fucking up in arms about the racist ableist dehumanization in-universe that she is literally asking us to agree with.

She's literally asking us to agree with her, and more importantly with the in-universe slave owners that Murderbot and every single other enslaved cyborg, that they're not human because they were mutilated at birth to get their fucking arms chopped off to put the stupid energy guns in their arms and had their genitals removed, presumably because everything below the waist was chopped off and they were given fucking robot legs and shit.

(from offscreen) Digestive tracts cuz they can't eat.

Yeah, they have no digestive tracks. These are cyborgs. Martha Wells admitted they were all they're all fucking cyborgs. But she doesn't want to use that word because people have “preconceived ideas” about how cyborgs — how cyborgs work in science fiction.

And how cyborgs work in science fiction is cyborgs fighting for equal rights and for their humanity to be acknowledged because they are dehumanized because they are metaphors for so many oppressed people. Usually disabled people. In this case, not only disabled people, but Black people in fucking particular because you've made them chattel slaves. They are fucking property. You can't do this shit!

And now in universe, literally the only fucking explanation for the PreservationAux team's behavior in this book once you've read the rest of the books is, "Oh, they are literal fucking monsters even more than they already were for renting out a slave. They are fucking monsters who are now lying to that fucking slave's face to manipulate it so that it thinks that they just had no idea what they were doing. All and all the while we know now they know exactly what they're doing.”

They are lying fucking bastards who rent rented out a fucking slave, and if as if that weren't bad enough, decided to add insult to injury by then literally fucking lying to that slave's face to fucking guilt trip it

into not being angry with them for enslaving it, by pretending that they just had no fucking clue it was a person.

(Sarcasm) “You can't be — Please don't be mad at us. We didn't even know you had a face!!!!” (End sarcasm)

As though anybody who's read the rest of the series, you know exactly what I'm fucking talking about. And if you haven't, if you're only experiencing this through me, you'll find out when we get there.

Anyways, that's enough video for today. My throat hurts from talking too much.

Bye-bye.

03

It's August 18th. We're going to continue reading this.

Uh the camera is filthy.[cleans camera] There we go.

I don't remember which exact page I was on, but I know we were at the part where they're like, “they were saying things like ‘I didn't even know it had a face’.”

I think we got to the part where it's completely and utterly — that's a fucking lie. Um, I'll read that paragraph again anyways because it's giant. Oh, no, that's the one I had read. Okay. Uh, blah blah blah blah blah blah blah,

> keeping the armor on all the time cuts down on unnecessary interaction

Because Martha Wells is pretending um, to us out in the metaverse, and in-universe is having these characters fucking lie, trying to convince us, the audience, when this book was new, and we had no

more context than this book, just — trying to pretend that “because Murderbot was wearing its armor, it just just looked like a mindless robot, so that's why they didn't reali — the PreservationAux team, these slave owners, they just didn't realize it was a person and that slavery was wrong.”

Even though they explicitly come from a planet where — and just, a world in general where *everybody* knows robots are sentient.

There's no propaganda that robots aren't sentient. Everybody knows robots are sentient.

So claiming that um, Murderbot keeping its armor on is the reason nobody realized it was a person, they know what robots are. They know what SecUnits are. They are just lying fucking bastards.

Like. Martha Wells is just shit at writing and she's a bigot. so, she wants — she wants in this book to claim that ~they just had no clue~, but then later wants to make them look good by saying that they, ~of course they they know robots are people!~, even though that

contradicts what they just fucking established in here, where they're claiming not to have known that Murderbot was a person and thinking it was just a fucking machine, even though there's plenty of fucking machines in here who are people who are literally on their fucking planet.

Anyways, that's on page 21, which is the fucking lie.

> I said it's part of my job not to listen to the system feeds when they...make mistakes.

And then thinking,

> That's why you need constructs, SecUnits with organic components. But she should know that before she accepted deliver of me, she had logged about 10 protests trying to get out of having to have me. I didn't hold it against her. I wouldn't have wanted me either.

And again, that's a joke. That's that's supposed to be a joke of ~lol, I wouldn't want to own me as a slave

either, lol, because I'm so insufferable and nobody likes me.~

And it's like, *we're talking about slavery*.

And this line of:

> before she accepted delivery of me, she had logged about 10 protests.

And this is what people use to justify and pretend that they're not slave owners. “They had no choice but to rent out a slave for literally no reason!”

[holding up book] Also, because I cannot stand it, I have to point again the massive fucking margin at the bottom of this page. And then they're not even making the, the page number, like, the page number is like noticeably smaller than the rest of the text.

So like they're not even making that bigger to so that you have to squint at that to see what it is. I mean you probably don't. I, I have to squint at it. But like look at that fucking margin. That's not the end of the chapter.

The end of the chapter is over here. This is just ridiculous.

Yeah. Again, we're we're making light of being a fucking slave because ~I wouldn't want to have me either.~ Again, that's a joke. That's a, that's a joke about how slavery is funny and not a big deal because ~haha, it's just a self-deprecating joke~.

And again, yeah, we're we're supposed to think, “oh, uh, they they complained about having to rent out a slave, so that means the fact that they went out of their way, solar systems out of their way to rent out a slave, that means we can't actually be mad at them for that. Cuz um, they were annoyed by it. And then they still did it.”

Seriously.

> I don't know why I didn't just say, "You're welcome, and please get out of my cubicle so I can sit here and leak in peace."

Even though we literally went out of our way, Martha Wells went out of her way, to tell us like what was it three pages ago? Yeah, that was on page quote-unquote 18, aka page nine. We're now on page quote-unquote 22. On page quote-unquote 18.

We established that Murderbot doesn't leak blood because its veins seal automatically. So, what exactly is it supposed to be leaking now? No, nothing at all.

And again, that's just supposed to be funny. “Please get out of my cubicle so I can sit here and leak in peace.” And she's using the word leak on purpose to make it funny and quirky and a joke, so that Murderbot being grievously injured by throwing itself in the line of fire to protect its slave owners, that's not actually supposed to be a serious thing that we can fucking take seriously as readers, because we don't, we don't get any description of the pain Murderbot is in.

And the fact that it's in pain is barely acknowledged at all. We don't get a description of what the injuries look like, how it's going to heal, how many resources

are going to be required to heal it, and then we just get shit like, uh, “let me leak in peace, please.”

> “All right,” she said and looked at me for what objectively I knew was 2.4 seconds and subjectively about 20 excruciating minutes.

Also, people keep pointing this shit out and acting like it's a revolutionary concept, and uh ~that's how fast Murderbot thinks!!!~

And it's like, okay, this is not a new writing thing, it's just, you're just — it's ridiculous.

Like, so many people have mentioned shit like this when characters are embarrassed. Uh “he knew it had only been like two seconds but it felt like thousand fuckingyears standing there in the middle of the fucking hallway” something etc. This is not a new —

(from offscreen) Magnus tries to tell a joke

Uh, Ultra Magnus tries to tell a joke in some Transformer story.

Like, people are like, like going batshit over the statement:

> Objectively I knew it was 2.4 seconds, but subjectively it felt like a 20 excruciating minutes.

Like that's a brand new thing that Martha Wells has invented.

It's like no guys, that's not new, that's basic shit. Why are you acting like this is the first book you have ever read in your fucking life? Like what in the fucking is going on? Like, “oh, Martha Wells is such a genius writer. I've never heard the concept that time seems to slow down when you are embarrassed about something.” That's a brand — that's like a fucking shocking concept to people reading these books, apparently.

> “All right,” she said and looked at me for what objectively I knew was 2.4 seconds and subjectively about 20 excruciating minutes. “I'll see you in 8 hours. If you need anything before then, please send me an alert on the feed.” She stepped back and let the door slide closed.

And again, we're not getting a description of what? — how? — what kind of positions these characters are in, because Murderbot is supposed to be in something called a cubicle, lying on a plastic bed. So, presumably horizontal, but we don't actually get the fucking reference like, that ‘Mensah is above Murderbot looking down.’ Like, let me even scroll the fuck back.

[flips back book]

Yeah, it's just

> Doctor Mensah opened the door and peered in at me.

No mention of ‘she had to look down to meet my gaze because I was lying down’ or ‘I had to look up at her, which was even more nerve-wracking than when we were at eye level.’ Anything like that.

Murderbot's supposed to be lying down, but we're we're not getting any of that.

She stepped back and let the door slide closed.

And it's just like again — well, actually, I don't know if I brought it up in this series. I — It's in one of my other videos, but years and years and years ago when I was still in high school, I read a, a parody fanfiction for the BBC Merlin fandom. It may still exist somewhere. I'll try to find it.

Um, it's just parodying all the bad writing you ever see in badly written fanfiction where there's no setting. The characters are just speaking. No description of the room whatsoever.

And the parody does this by parodying all of the bad writing by having the characters suddenly go, "Wait,

hold on. Hold on. Hold the fuck on, Merlin. Where are we? Are we in, Are we in the forest? Are we, Are we in, Are we in your room? Are we in the courtyard? Where are we? Are we in the tavern? Where are we? Where are we?"

And then they're just like, "Oh, um, well, the author didn't fucking describe the scene, so we are just in a fucking void. We could be literally anywhere. Also, how did you get here? Because as far as I can remember, we just started talking out of nowhere. Like, just there's just no setup for anything going on here and just all of this shit,”

And, and, and and that's that's literally what Martha Wells does, but unironically.

Like, we should be getting descriptions of how the characters are standing in position to one another, especially when you're talking about a slave and its fucking owner. Mensah standing above Murderbot in a position of power both symbolically and physically. That's a fucking thing. But we're not gonna do that, because we're just gonna do shitty bad fanfiction.

Like I, I keep specifying these are written like *bad* fanfiction because there's a difference between bad fanfiction and good fanfiction. And this is written like bad fanfiction.

> It left me wondering what they were all marveling at. So I called up the recording of the incident.

And yes, this is all just coming out of nowhere.

> Wow. Okay. I had talked to

or no.

> Okay. Wow. I had talked to all the way up the side of the crater. I had been mostly concerned with Hopper's trajectory and borrowed not bleeding out and what might come out of that crater for a second try. I hadn't been listening to myself. Basically, I had asked him if he had kids. It was boggling. Maybe I had been watching too much media.

And then in parenthesis,

> he did have kids.

This is this is all one paragraph.

> He did have kids. He was in a four-way marriage and had seven all back home with his partners.

And that's the end of that paragraph. And okay, here's a concept what that I thought of the first time I read this and I got here. I was like, "Oh, uh, what if Murderbot is plural? What if Murderbot's literally fucking plural?" Because of the trauma of being a fucking slave. So, it has parts of its fucking consciousness that are friendly and. and chat with people and do stuff like that, but no. Nope.

It's just “Murderbot just did all of that somehow without knowing it was doing that or remembering it consciously.”

I, I mean, I'm just going to go with Murderbot is plural from now on, but that's not canon. I mean, it is canon as far as Murderbot does millions of fucking things and very complex actions that it has no recollection of whatsoever. What do you, what would, what do you call that besides plurality? The fact that it did all of these things and said all of these things and had absolutely no recollection of it and is ab, like it's mind-boggling to murderbot. The sentence is

> it was boggling.

I'm just going to say Murderbots plural.

Anyways:

> All my levels were too elevated now for a rest period.

A thing that never comes up in any book following this because it's badly written.

> So, I decided I might as well get some use out of it and look at the other recordings. Then, I found something weird.

And and so Murderbot was about to go look at the other recordings of the things it did that it has absolutely no recollection of and can't understand it why, how it did that, uh but that gets interrupted.

I'm just going to say Murderbot is plural from now on.

> Then I found something weird. There was an abort order in the HubSystem command feed. The one that controlled or currently believed it controlled my governor module. It had to be a glitch. It didn't matter because when MedSystem has priority—

Uh, em dash, which is the long dash, to interrupt that, let me read it.

> There was an abort order in the HubSystem

HubSystem sent an abort order to Murderbot’s governor module. Uh we don't get any specifics, and that's said in the most convoluted way possible. I will read that sentence again.

> There was an abort order in the HubSystem command feed. The one that controlled or currently believed it controlled my governor module.

But what's the abort order for? Because and as again, again, um in order, this isn't foreshadowing. This is not foreshadowing, because foreshadowing kind of requires you to give the information to the audience. We're not being given it, there's something in at the last minute. Yeah.

> It had to be a glitch. It didn't matter because when MedSystem has priority,

And I don't understand that either, but whatever.

Uh, we get

performance reliability at 39% stasis initiated for emergency repair sequence.

A thing that will literally fucking —

I swear to God, they put an entire —

Oh my god, do you see how pathetic this is?

They put an entire blank page after chapter 1 to separate it from chapter 2.

Despite having a page break.

[holding up book] This is what a page break is. You can do it on your fucking computer on your uh LibreOffice, Open Office, to make the next thing just skip to the end of the page and start typing on the next.

That's how it works. These fuckers, they didn't just stop at putting this massive fucking margin at the bottom of each page. They don't just stop at lying

about what page number you're on. They are inserting entire full blank pages.

Let's — Let's just flip. Oh, it doesn't want to flip. Okay.

Oh, look at that. They do it for chapter 3, too. Oh my god.

Oh, they they didn't do it for chapter 4, though. That's not weird at all. Like, are you — They're not even being consistent.

Are they going to do it for all of the chapters or just just just some of them?

Did they give up like halfway through?

Yeah, they're do — they didn't do it at the for chapter five either. Are you hearing this? This is ridiculous.

Did, did — was somebody in charge of putting those in? They don't do it for chapter six.

They do it for chapter 7

And they don't do it for chapter 8. What is the fucking point of this?

So, they do it for chapter 2, three, and seven, I think. All right — what? Like this is just bullshit, I swear to God, this is so pathetic.

You put a page break there, so now the very next page should be this, but instead, it's completely blank.

So that — so that they could — so they could buff this shit out, to not even accomplish a single centimeter of book, so that they can pretend that this is worth the same as Ancillary Justice, an actual fucking novel with characterization and world building and political commentary that Martha Wells decided to fuck up every single way possible.

Anyways, we're now on chapter two after this blank page.

> When I woke up, I was mostly all there again

Because god forbid we have stakes.

Oh, I don't have my my little notepad open, I closed it. Uh, where the fuck did I put it? My notepad thing doesn't have an “open recent things” and I have a bunch of things. What did I name it? Oh, okay. Okay, I found it.

Yeah, we do have to include another random ass performance reliability blah to avoid actually ending the scene.

Um, this counts for the overpowered ableism because we're, we're told murderbots are supposed to be cheap, and yet Murderbot successfully healed. Uh:

> I was mostly all there again and up to 80% efficiency and climbing. I checked all the feeds immediately in case the humans wanted to go out

As though they're dogs. As though they're dogs and not slave owners!

> in case the humans wanted to go out.

Like they're literally — talking about a fucking dog that you're petsitting.

> But Mensah had extended the security interdict on the habitat for another 4 hours, which was a relief since it would give me time to get back up to the 98% range. But there was also a notice for me to report to her.

That's fucking rude.

> That had never happened before. But maybe she wanted to go over the hazard info package and figure out why it hadn't warned us about the underground hostile. I was wondering a little about that myself.

And if

(to person offscreen) Were you here when I was pointing out that it's very bizarre for Mensah to just be like, interrupting the person who's trying to get healed, to just blather their fucking ear off and argue with them, when they're actively in a hospital bed?

Trying to go to sleep, to heal and you're just here arguing with them? Like it's just fucking weird as shit.

(to camera again) Anyways, you notice how the PreservationAux team are just all still treating it like a fucking slave?

(person speaking intelligibly from offscreen)

Like Mensah not even there — Huh?

(from offscreen) Full month in.

A full month in. A full fucking month into this shit.

They're just putting in saying, "Hey, come here when you're awake, even if you're not fully healed yet." She doesn't even wait. Mensah doesn't even wait until it is fully fucking healed, it's only 80% healed and climbing. Just passively, just just just casual health regeneration.

> Their group was called PreservationAux and it had bought an option on this planet's resources and the survey trip was to see if it was

I have the hiccups for the record.

> And the survey trip was to see if it was worth bidding on a full share.

And we don't get an explanation for what the fuck any of that means.

Like, this is a this is a capitalist dystopia. You have to explain how these things function in a capitalist space dystopia where all — every facet of capitalism is worse.

> Knowing about things on the planet that might eat them while they're trying to do whatever it is they're going — whatever it is they're doing was kind of important. I don't care much about who my clients are or what they're trying to accomplish. I knew this group was from a freehold planet, but I hadn't bothered to look

> up the specifics. Freehold meant it had been terraformed and colonized, but wasn't affiliated with any corporate con confederations. Basically freehold generally meant

shit so — shit-so — show, shitshow.

I can't fucking say that word for some reason.

> So I hadn't been expecting much from them. But they were surprisingly easy to work for.

And it's like okay, Martha Wells, why are you like — and this isn't, this isn't explicitly in universe propaganda. It's true. Preservation is the exception. So it's like, so what? How is this anti- capitalist? If you're saying that everybody except Preservation, they're the good ones. They're the exception that proves the rule.

What are you fucking saying? If you're saying that all of the planets that also, just look at this fucking disgustingly huge margin at the top of the page and then the even bigger one at the bottom. I just hate it

so fucking much. I swear to God. And they didn't even use this bullshit to jump for bigger text.

What are you saying, Martha Wells, about everybody else? You're saying that everybody else who's not Preservation, who's not a capitalist planet, is a shit hole. How is that anti- capitalist?

Like, because Murderbot — this is never proven wrong. This is actively upheld — it's literally just everyone that's not ruled by the fed the corporations is a shit hole and Preservation is the sole fucking exception. It's fucking ridiculous.

It's literally just just capitalist propaganda that never gets fuckin, uh pushed back against. And it's just ridiculous, I swear to god.

But they were surprisingly easy to work for

because you know they're my ~good pure cinnamon roll slave owners. They're so nice.~

> I cleaned all the stray fluids off my new skin, then climbed out of the cubicle. That was when I realized I hadn't put the pieces of my armor up, and it was all over the floor, covered with my fluids, and Bharadwaj's blood. No wonder Mensah had looked into the cubicle. She had probably thought I was dead in there. I put it all back into its slots in the reclaimer for repair.

Also, Mensah, dick, fucking move. Why would — What? We're supposed to believe these are good people who care about slaves, and are good people and are “good slave owners”, so therefore they're not slave owners at all. But she saw how [__] drastically injured Murderbot was to the point that it didn't even notice that it was just dropping shit in its efforts to get into the fucking medical pod.

And she just left all that on the floor for it to clean up.

What if we could have had all of these people put on their fucking hazmat suits, proper fucking PPE, she — actually it is Mensah's job, because she's the one in

charge of this shit, so, she's she's literally has to be the one in charge of cleaning up fucking blood spills.

We're just going to go with grocery basic grocery store management things. Men's in charge. It's her fucking job to clean up spills involving blood. and we're going to include Murderbot’s never described fluids. We're just gonna assume that's blood, but dehumanized blood. So, it's just called a fluid because “you're, you're subhuman. So, you don't get to have blood. You just have fucking fluid, because you're just a shitty alien alien fanfiction version of David / the Working Joe's.”

Why didn't Mensah fucking clean up the fucking armor that Murderbot almost fucking died in? She has access to PPE. She has access to all the same fucking cleaning supplies.If we are supposed to fucking believe that these are good people who care about slaves and care about Murderbot, why are they leaving it to clean up its own fucking blood stains from it almost dying to save one of their fucking lives?

How is this — How is this good, good person fucking actions?

You know, if, if, if I cared about somebody and they had almost just fucking died saving my friend's fucking life, and their bloody clothes were all over the floor, I would get some fucking PPE and fucking pick up all the shit, clean up all of their fucking blood so that they can focus on fucking healing and not dying, and put it in the fucking washing machine.

Like, all Murderbot had to do was put it into its slots in the reclaimer for repair. You just pick it up and you put it in the fucking sci-fi washing machine.

Why didn't any of these people that we're supposed to believe are good people do this for Murderbot?

Why does it have to wake up from almost fucking dying and immediately clean up this shit?

It risked its fucking life for these people and they can't even be bothered to just fucking take some — god even just, fucking salad tongs! Just take some

fucking salad tongs, pick up the fucking armor, put it in the goddamn repair thing!!!

Because now Murderbot is going to have to wait for its fucking armor to get repaired. And they just left this all on the fucking floor. I'm just — Oh my god. Are you hearing this? Why would you do that to someone? Why would you do that to someone?

The second you examine these characters as people who are supposed to be interacting with the world even when the protagonist is not looking, literally like the f — this is called active reading right now. where we are actually paying attention to what's going on and asking “how does that fit into the larger context” and Murderbot having to fucking wake up and immediately crawl out of its hospital bed and go clean up its bloodied fucking clothes and armor because it was too fucking exhausted and traumatized to do so before it got into the fucking hospital bed, and all of the other people who are perfectly fucking fine —

They've had eight fucking hours to do anything to help it whatsoever, to just show basic fucking courtesy. It fucking almost died to save Bharadwaj.

Doctor Mensah was in there specifically fucking bothering it in a, in a fucking performative show of, "Oh, we're concerned about you. Um, not going to do anything to help you though. I am I am in fact just going to fucking argue with you while you're injured.”

Like, what in the fucking is this shit? This is going to piss me off for so fucking long now.

Like, what in the fuck?

Why wouldn't you —

Why would you not—

Why would you not—

How are —

How are we supposed to see these as good people when they literally cannot even be bothered?

Yeah, that person, our fucking meat — enslaved meatshield. literally almost died saving her life, and his life — successfully saved their fucking lives, and was so injured it literally just had to strip itself naked and climb into the fucking hospital bed to get healed.

“I'm just gonna leave all of that that bloody clothes on the floor even though we have. all of us have the ability to fucking clean this shit up so that the fucking meatshield slave who risked its life to save our friend doesn't have to deal with this shit when it wakes up after almost dying.”

What in the fuck!

You know that whole uh “yeah, he says he's feminist, but does he wash the dishes” shit?

Like, yeah, you claim you care about Murderbot, but do you even fucking do the bare minimum to help it when it just fucking almost died for you?

You won't even put its bloody clothes in the fucking washing machine! Your super space sci-fi washing machine that's in the same room! You literally just chuck them in! You don't even have to push any buttons! Just put it in there.!

Oh my god, I am going to be so pissed, just even the little things — because the little things build up to the larger fucking picture and it's like, Jesus Christ, imagine a fanfiction of your favorite characters and one of them fucking threw themselves into the mouth of a grabid to protect the other people, and then was so almost dead that they didn't even have time to wash their fucking bloody clothes before collapsing.

And the characters we're supposed to like just leave their bloody clothes all over their fucking apartment and leave them to fucking have to clean this shit up in the morning when they wake up from almost fucking dying.

Like, oh my god. That's on page 26. I'm going to be so fucking enraged by this forever now. Wow. Like, I

noticed this the first time, but I was like not fucking even — Oh my god.

Just go about vibes. Can I type my damn number?

We're 17 pages into the story and the characters that we're supposed to believe, um, are good people, they won't even clean up, they, they will force you to fucking clean — and just, Jesus Christ — Clean up your own blood.

You have to clean up your own blood after you risk your fucking life to save them.

Even though the person who literally should be in charge of blood spills, if you've never worked at a fucking grocery store, that's the fucking term for it. It's a blood spill because uh, bloodborne pathogens are a fucking thing. So only the fucking managers are allow — literally only the managers are allowed to do anything involving blood, because they're not allowed to literally make the fucking lowest workers, uh, engage with blood spills and potentially get a fucking deadly disease.

Mensah is — I don't give a shit. They're from Preservation. It's supposed to be a utopia. Mensah's in charge of blood spills. She's in charge. She's — It's her fucking responsibility.

But she is just making the slave that they have been treating like a fucking object — they know it's fucking — risked their lives and almost died and saved two of them, and, and they don't even give enough shits — they're not even grateful enough to clean up its bloody clothes.

Literally all they have to do just get some fucking PPE. Personal Protective Equipment if you don't fucking know what that means. Just get some fucking latex gloves. Pick the fucking armor up, put it in the fucking reclaimer, aka super sci-fi washing machine, and get a fucking mop.

It's a super sci-fi thing. They probably don't even need mops. You can probably just tell HubSystem, "Hey, spray some fucking disinfectant here” because they don't know HubSystem is supposed to be doing stuff yet.

Like,

> No wonder Mensah had looked into the cubicle. She had probably thought I was dead in there. I put it all back into its slots in the reclaimer for repair.

But it's like, okay, so Mensah, she had access to Murderbot's fucking status thing, so she would have known when it fell unconscious because of its damage. And, and, and she, and nobody else here, of the seven other — seven? Yeah, seven other slave owner characters, not a single one of them, even though we're told they're good people, not a single one of them decided to just, in eight fucking hours — eight whole goddamn hours! — none of them decided, “I'm, I'm going to be—”

No, like, imagine if Volescu had done it—

Or whoever here is the closest friends with Volescu and Bharadwaj had only left the their side in the fucking infirmary to come here and clean up Murderbot's blood so that it doesn't have to, because

— to show gratitude for it fucking almost dying to save their fucking friends!

Going from the infirmary where Bharadwaj and Volescu are, to Murderbot, because it's also in the fucking infirmary even if it's in the segregated section of the fucking hospital. Only “real purely organic humans allowed”. Jesus Christ.

> I put it all back into the its slots in the reclaimer for repair. I had an alternate set, but it was still packed into storage, and it would take extra time to pull it out and do the diagnostics and the fitting. I hesitated over the uniform, but the security feed would have notified Mensah that I was awake, so I needed to get out there.

So, Murderbot is in a rush because it is afraid that it's going to get in trouble if it doesn't get the fuck out to Mensah. I'm going to call her Doctor Mensah from now on because it fucking irritates the hell out of me that the, the narration is not lining up with the

fucking prose. It's completely inconsistent and it infuriates me.

Uh…

> I hesitated over the uniform, but the security feed would have notified Doctor Mensah that I was awake, so I needed to get out there.

So Murderbot is quietly fucking panicking. It doesn't want to just have to wear a uniform because it likes wearing the armor because it protects it.

And we're pretending that that's their excuse, the slave owner's excuse, for not “not realizing” it was a person, a fucking lie. So, Murderbot is scared that if it doesn't get the fuck out there as soon as possible, Doctor Mensah is going to hurt it, because Doctor Mensah didn't bother — even though we're supposed to believe these are good people who care about slaves —sShe didn't say anything like, "Take your time. I don't want you to get hurt," or anything like that. Um, “there's no rush.” didn't say anything to give any kind of assurance that it's not going to be

punished if it doesn't literally bolt out there as soon as it's fucking conscious again.

> It was based

And again with the lack of pronoun,

> it was based on a standard research group's uniforms and meant to be comfortable inside the habitat. Knit gray pants.

Also, what do you mean knit gray? Are they really knit? Because when you say a thing is knit, like, I don't think they have knit gr — unless Preservation brought these uniforms with them, which I highly fucking doubt, because

(from offscreen) I think she means sweatpants.

Yeah, that — Yeah, but saying knit like — this is supposed to be a super futuristic sci-fi. I don't think they're knit. I think whatever. Just say “soft fabric, gray pants, long sleeve t-shirt, and a jacket.”

> Like the exercise clothes, humans, and augmented humans

Is that the first time we have the word augmented humans?

Martha Wells loves dehumanizing physically disabled people, and it's bad enough in this one. It gets worse the longer it goes on, and the long, the longer — she just doubles down on it. And it's infuriating at this point.

> like the exercise clothes humans and augmented humans wore, plus soft shoes. I put it on, tugged the sleeves down over the gunports on my forearms, and went out into the habitat. I went through two interior secure doors to the crew area and found

And you notice how we're still not getting a single description of what any of these hallways looks like. Not even a description of the hallways, not a description of the setup.

We're just told, "I went out. I left my room and I went through two more doors and then I was in the crew area”

and found them in the main hub in a huddle around a console looking at one of the hovering displays. They were all there except Bharadwaj who was still in the infirmary and Volescu, who was sitting in there with her — in there with her. There were mugs and empty meal packets on some of the consoles. I'm not cleaning that up unless I'm given a direct order.

(to person offscreen) What?

(from offscreen) didn’t say anything

(to person offscreen) Okay.

Mensah was busy, so I stood and waited. Rathi

No “doctor”, I'm putting in the fucking “doctor”s because it's inconsistent and I'm going to — No... I guess I shouldn't do that for your benefit.

> Mensah was busy, so I stood and waited. Rathi glanced at me and then did a startled double take. I had no idea how to react. This is why I prefer wearing the armor even inside the habitat where it's unnecessary and can just get in the way. Human clients

As though Murderbot's not human, because it's literally a fucking cyborg.

> Human clients usually like to pretend I'm a robot, and that's much easier in the armor. I let my eyes unfocus and pretended I was running a diagnostic on something.

(sarcasm begins) Don't worry, guys. Murderbot's totally machine intelligence as of 2020. Yeah. Yeah, guys. Murderbot's totally not an actual human at all. It's It's not like it just has to *pretend* to be a fucking robot. Not like it's literally a goddamn cyborg who has been dehumanized and brainwashed into seeing itself as subhuman. (sarcasm ends)

You know, they literally call it an android and a droid on the back of this book. How fucking pathetic.

> Clearly bewildered, Rathi said, "Who is this?" They all turned to look at me, all but Mensah, who was sitting at the console with the interface pressed to her forehead.

And again, lack of descriptions! What, what do you mean `the interface is pressed to her forehead?` What does that interface look like? How does it interface with her fucking forehead? How is any of this working?

We're not going to get descriptions because this is written like it's shitty fanfiction for a, you know, the what's the word I'm looking for? The source material that we've all already read slash watched.

So, we don't — she “doesn't need” to give explanations even though *this is the source material*. This *is* the original fiction.

> It was clear that even after seeing my face on Volescu's camera video, they didn't recognize me without the helmet. So then I had to look at them and say, "I'm your SecUnit." They all looked startled and uncomfortable, almost as uncomfortable as I did. I wished I had waited to pull the spare armor out. Part of it is they didn't want me here. Not here in their hub, but here on the planet. One of the reasons the bond the bond company requires it besides slapping more expensive markups on their clients is that I was recording all their conversations all the time. Though I wasn't monitoring anything I didn't need to do a half-ass version of my job. But the company would access all those recordings and data mine them for everything they could sell. No, they don't tell people that. Yes, everyone does know it. No, there's nothing you can do about it.

And it's like, so this is Martha Wells attempting to like say, uh, “selling people's data is bad and recording people against their will is bad.”

Except the problem is that then every single other fucking story in this goddamn series expects you to agree that it's awesome and cool for Murderbot to spy on literally everyone at literally every single fucking time, including children.

So the, the the attempted statement of “oh, uh,,, surveillance is bad” — except when Murderbot does it literally all the time, and then we are literally expected to think that the characters who have a problem with this are Evil and Ableist Against the Robot, because you don't want to be spied on and have your private conversations in your fucking home recorded without your fucking knowledge.

So, she's literally saying here, trying to act like, "Oh, um, people don't like Murderbot because it spies on everybody and that's a bad thing."

But then the literally entire rest of the series wants you to feel bad about telling — about — it wants you to hate anybody who tells Murderbot, "Stop fucking spying on me. Do not fucking record my goddamn conversations. What the fuck? I did not give you

permission to record video of me. I didn't give you permission to record my voice. Why the fuck are you listening in on my private conversations?”

No good character that we're supposed to like is ever allowed to say anything like that, because the entire rest of the series is unironically — unintentionally, but unironically — saying that if you think it's bad for your privacy to be invaded, that means that you're a bigot towards poor little autistic robots.

I'm not joking.

You'll fucking see.

Let me get a drink. Pause this for once.

Okay, I'm back. I've had my tea made.

Also, I have in my notepad, before I forget any further, I wrote down that uh afterward for the last video, we get told that having Murderbot patrol inside the habitat would be “a stupid waste of resources”, and yet everybody putting things on lockdown for a

graboid that is like, hundreds of miles away probably, in a completely different ecosystem, isn't a stupid waste of resources? That's just a basic inconsistency.

Uh yeah, this whole bullshit, pretending to pretending to care and pretending to think that um, surveillance and data mining is bad — except for the entire rest of the series then comes along to say “no actually it's perfectly good and fine and progressive actually for Murderbot to spy on everybody, and anybody who has a problem with that, um they're racist against robots” and it's just ridiculous.

> after a subjective half hour and an objective 3.4 seconds

because we are all we're not even how many fucking pages ago was that? That was less, [counting] one... that was three, like four pages ago, that we did that the first time, and we are already going to attempt to beat that dead horse.

Uh…

> after a subjective half hour and an objective 3.4 seconds, Doctor Mensah turned.

We're calling her Doctor Mensah suddenly. That's weird. I didn't add that in. That's weird and incon — which is weird and inconsistent.

> Doctor Mensah turned saw me and lowered the interface.

The interface we still don't know what the fuck it looks like.

> She said we were checking the hazard report for the region to try and learn why that thing wasn't listed under hazardous fauna. Pin-Lee thinks the data has been altered. Can you examine the report for us?

And again, this is like this is just such a fucking bizarre way of speaking. Doctor Mensah just goes from zero to

> we were checking the hazard report for this region to try and learn why that thing wasn't listed under hazardous for fauna. Pin-Lee thinks the data has been altered. Can you examine the report for us?

No asking, um, “are you feeling better?” No asking “are you okay?” No asking, um, “do you need — do you want to go off duty for longer? Do you think you're fully recovered?” Nothing like that.

Just gets straight to, you know, using the fucking slave as a goddamn slave.

> “Yes, Doctor Mensah.” I could have done this in my cubicle and we could all have all saved the embarrassment. Anyway, I picked up the feed she was watching from HubSystem and started to check the report.

Like, yeah, literally, why is she making Murderbot walk all the fucking way out here when it was just grievously injured and then they made it clean up its bloody clothes and have made it walk all the way out

here and not one single fucking word of like — even when they realize that this is Murderbot they're talking to, nobody says, "Oh my gosh, are you okay?" They're all just staring at it silently. It — Jesus Christ.

> It was basically a long list of pert

It's a Wikipedia page.

> It was basically a long list of pertinent info and warnings on the planet and specifically the area where our habitat was with emphasis on weather, terrain, flora, fauna, air quality, mineral deposits, possible hazards related to any, and all of those with connections to subreports with more detailed information. Doctor Gurathin, the least talkative one, was an augmented human and had his own implanted interface. I could feel him poking around in the data, while the others using the touch interfaces were just distant ghosts. I had a lot more processing power than he did, though

because you're a fully integrated cyborg.

> I thought they were being paranoid. Even with the interfaces, you actually have to read the words, preferably all the words. Sometimes non- augmented humans don't do that. Sometime augmented humans don't do it either.

Very funny thing to say for an author who's actively cultivating an audience that just fucking reads off of vibes and no actual looking at the fucking words. Pretty fucking ironic.

> But as I checked the general warning section, I noticed something was odd about the formatting. A quick comparison with the other parts of the report report told me that yeah, something had been removed. A connection to a subreport broken. “You're right,” I said, distracted as I rifled through data storage looking for the missing piece. I couldn't find it. It wasn't just a broken connection. Somebody had actually deleted the subreport. That was supposed to be impossible with this type of planetary survey package, but I guess it wasn't

> as impossible as all that. “Something’s been deleted from the warnings and the section on fauna.” The reaction to that in general was pretty pissed off. There were some loud complaints from Pin-Lee and Overse and dramatic throwing-hands-in-the-air from Ratthi. But, like I said, they were all friends and a lot less restrained with each other than my last set of contractual obligations. It was why, if I forced myself to admit it, I had actually been enjoying this contract, up until something tried to eat me and Bharadwaj.

What a strange sentence.

Like, okay, the,

> the reaction to that in general was pretty pissed off.

They start yelling and throwing their hands into the air and behaving angrily.

And you know, if, if Murderbot were actually written like a fucking slave in a setting where we understand that slavery is evil, this should be causing Murderbot some extremely fucking severe anxiety, because

pissed off fucking slave owners means bad things for the fucking slave who's in the room and is a very convenient target who can't fucking fight back.

But no, instead we get, uh, it—

> but like I said, they were all friends and a lot less restrained with each other than my last set of contractual obligations. It was why if I forced to myself to admit it, I had actually been enjoying this contract, up until something tried to eat me and Bharadwaj.

Yeah, we're just going to gloss over any actual triggering-ness that this should be causing for the fucking slave who has been abused by slave owners its whole fucking life.

People, its slave own, current slave owners, getting extremely fucking pissed off, yelling, throwing shit, throwing their hands in the air and yelling? That should be causing Murderbot anxiety. It should be getting afraid of getting fucking hurt and it should then be des —

— If, if we must go with “these are the best slave owners ever”, then it should be feeling that anxiety, crushing fucking anxiety, instinctively backing the fuck away from them, and then trying to reassure

itself, “no, they're, they're they're nice so far. They haven't hurt me. It's probably fine.”

And then, you know, if we give a shit about these people *and* we want to pretend they're good people, they would all immediately see this reaction from their fucking slave who's obviously traumatized, and go, "Oh, no — we're not — we're not angry at you. Sorry, sorry for scaring you! We're just angry at this thing, not at you. We're not going to hurt you in any way.”

But no, we we just don't do any of that, because that would require thinking slavery is bad, and taking it seriously instead of just using it as shitty fucking set dressing. Let me get a drink.

That would, you know, that would make the story serious instead of light-hearted comedy. So that's why we don't do any of that at all.

Why are we fucking going on a random tangent? That's so weird. The next page is —That's so random.

I'll... I'll read that last sentence. It was why — the slavery apologism sentence, just so you can see how bizarre and out of nowhere this next paragraph on the page is. Uh...

> it waswhy if I force myself to admit it, I had actually been enjoying this cont[ract]

Murderbot enjoys being enslaved. “It's only when the slave owners are *mean* that being a slave is a problem, you see.”

> up until something tried to eat me and Bharadwaj SecSystem

S E C, as in security, because Martha Wells thinks if she just shoves a bunch of shitty acronyms in here that makes it real sci-fi.

> SecSystem

And it's just going to sound like I'm saying sex system, which everybody makes jokes about. I don't give a shit. It's also just — [holds up book] Look at this disgusting margin. I'm going to keep repeating it. Look at this fucking disgusting margin.

They literally have this whole piece of paper, and there — it looks like that shitty Arsene Lupin fucking scam that somebody just, very badly printed a PDF and tried to make it a book and didn't even properly refi — resize it at all. It's a very niche complaint to make. You can go find it. It's not illegal, cuz Arsene Lupin is public domain, but it's just like, come on, you can do better than that. Are you fucking kidding me?

(to person offscreen) If you have images of that, try to find an image.

(from offscreen) I don't.

(to person offscreen) Okay.

> SecSystem record every — records everything even inside the Al.

So, you notice how we we just keep doing redundant shit? It's going to get worse. We have HubSystem, we have MedSystem, we have Murderbot, *and* we have SecSystem because, (sarcasm begins) you know, we just need just keep adding more redundant things in.

It's not like it clutters up the storytelling or anything. (Sarcasm ends) Why not have Warriors *and* Soldiers? Because nobody told her no!

> SecSystem records everything, even inside the sleeping cabins. And I see everything. That's why it's easier to pretend I'm a robot.

Murderbot admitting it's not a fucking robot. And yet on the back of the book, we literally get lied to and told it's a droid and an android. Android is bad enough. Droid? That's a fucking crime, because that — calling it a droid. They're trying to profit off of, they're just trying to ride on the coattails of Star Wars there in particular.

> That's why it's easier to pretend I'm a robot. Oversee and Arada were a couple, but from the way they'd acted, they'd always been one.

And they — So, it's had to watch Overse and Arada having sex.

> But from the way they'd acted, they'd always been one and they were best friends with Rathi. Rathi had an unrequited thing for Pin-Lee, but didn't act stupid about it. Pin-Lee was exasperated a lot and tossed things around when the others weren't there, but it wasn't about Rathi. I thought that being under the company's eye affected her more than the others. Volescu admired Mensah to the point where he might have a crush on her. Pin-Lee did too, but she and Bharadwaj flirted flirted occasionally in —

who the... This is all one paragraph.

> But Pin Pin-Lee did too. But she and Bharadwaj flirted occasionally in an old comfortable way that suggested it had been going on for a long time. Gurathin was the only loner, but he seemed to like being with the others. He had a small, quiet smile, and they all seemed to like him.

That's just a, um, that's called an info dump. That's all one fucking paragraph.

(from offscreen) It was like a blurb she wrote for herself as a note.

Yeah. And then actually use that to — That's all one paragraph. Yeah.

> It was a low stress group. They didn't argue much or antagonize each other for fun and were fairly restful to be around as long as they didn't try to talk or interact with me in any way.

Even though you're supposed to be a traumatized slave who has been abused by slave owners your whole life and these people are extremely pissed off right now and are reacting violently with violent uh emotions and shouting and gestures.

A thing that should be causing you stress if this story were serious and actually asking us to take slavery seriously, but it doesn't.

Hence why we're being told these slave owners are so quirky. “Look how Queer they are! They got queer crushes! That makes being a slavery owner okay!”

With an expression of frustration, Rathi said, "So, we have no way to know if that creature was an aberration or if they live at the bottom of all those craters."

And it's like, why do you need to be looking in the fucking craters anyways?

Martha Wells, why don't you fucking tell us why these motherfuckers are here in the first place, and what they think is so goddamn important that they need to enslave someone to do it Hmm??

Arada, who was one of the biology specialists

Since fucking when?

said, "You know, I bet they do. If those big avians,

I'm going to nitpick the fuck out of that. They're not avians. They're not on Earth. They're not birds. Just say those big winged things, the big flying things, they're not avians. Whatever.

Anyways,

> “You know, I bet they do. If those big avians we saw on the scans land on those barrier islands frequently, that creature might be preying on them.”
> “It would explain what the craters are doing there,” Mensah said more thoughtfully.

So, she's supposed to be saying that thoughtfully.

> “It would explain what the creators are doing there.” That would be the anomal — that would be one anomaly out of the way at least. “But who removed that subreport?” Pin-Lee said, which I agreed was the more important question here. She turned to me with one of those abrupt movements that I had taught myself not to react to. “Can the HubSystem be

> hacked?” From the outside, I had no idea. It was as easy as breathing to do it from the inside with the built-in interfaces in my own body. I had hacked it as soon as it had come online when we set up the habitat, I had to. If it monitored the governor module and my feed like it was supposed to, it could lead to a lot of awkward questions and me being stripped for parts.
> “As far as I know, it's possible,” I said. “But it's more likely that the report was damaged before you received the survey package.”

And then just this sentence all by itself in one paragraph:

> Lowest bidder. Trust me on that one.

What does that fucking mean? Because — hold, it doesn't make sense.

“It's more likely that the report was damaged before you receive the survey package.” And then just just by

itself, “Lowest bidder. Period. Trust me on that one. Period.:

And it's like — because on the back of the book, we say like, where the fuck did it go? Um, “in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.”

And it's like, okay, there's, there's several massive problems with this whole conceit here, especially this random ass fucking sentence that comes out of nowhere and means nothing.

Um, we saying — this is saying that these people put on an advertisement saying they're looking for a security company, and then these people, from Preservation who were told are good people who care about safety and, you know, not violating Space OSHA...

We're now supposed to be convinced that they went with “the company.” Totally not Weyland-Yutani or anything. They went with “the company” because it was the cheapest option, even though they're

supposed to be good people who care about basic safety and would like to not die, and have literally the resources of an entire fucking planet at their disposal….

You're telling me that that the people from Preservation went with the cheapest company they could possibly find, because they're lazy, cheap bastards?

That doesn't line up with how we're *supposed to* see these characters, because we're *supposed to* see them as “the best ever socialist utopia, they're such good people. They really care about safety.”

Like, they could afford a company that's not going to get them killed by being cheap and cutting corners. But we're supposed to believe they went with the cheapest one possible because, that's what “safety where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.”

But it is for these people, because they're from Preservation, and we're supposed to believe that they're like, competent and care about other people.

None of this shit makes sense the second you actually fucking think about it instead of just going off of vibes of, "Oh yeah, they had to go with the company."

It's like, did they though?

Because they're the ones hiring the company, not the other fucking way around. These people had every choice in the world!

They have, I cannot stress to you enough, they have all the money that an entire fucking planet run on slave labor can generate. And that's a lot of fucking money they could have just bought —

Why didn't they just bring their own security? None of this makes sense.

Literally, just thinking about it for five fucking seconds is enough to make all of this shit fall apart. Especially when she's just inserting this

> Lowest bidder. Trust me on that one.

Out of nowhere. It's fucking meaningless. There's no context for that. It's just in there. It's just there. It's ridiculous.

> There were groans and general complaining about having to pay high prices for shitty equipment. I don't take it personally. Mensah said, "Gurathin, maybe

Also, why are — these these people are supposed to be friends? Why are they calling each other by their last names?

It makes sense for Murderbot to call them by their last names because it doesn't fucking like them — well, it's not *supposed to* like them yet. It does. It very obviously already worships the ground they

walk, but it's not supposed to be friends with them yet, even though it is.

Why are they referring to each other as Mensah, Gurathin, Bharadwaj? Those are their last names. These people have grown up together. Why are like, why are they calling each other by their last names?

Again, it's just bad fucking writing, written like shitty fanfiction.

> There's no reason these people wouldn't be call — especially because we just got told multiple of them have a have a crush on Mensah. Like, they're not going to be calling each other by their last fucking names. They're going on a be on a first fucking name basis. “Gurathin maybe you and Pin-Lee

And we don't even—

whatever.

> “Maybe you and Pin-Lee can figure out what happened.” Most of my clients only know their special

This is — that's — Oh my god. The paragraphs in this are fucking atrocious. This is all one paragraph. I will tell you when we get to the end of the paragraph.

This paragraph continues up to the next page and — there's ink misprints on the next page.

Start of the paragraph.

> There were groans in general complaining about having to pay high prices for shitty equipment. Period. Start parenthesis. I don't take it personally. Period. End parenthesis. Mensah said, "Gurathin, comma, maybe you and Pin-Lee can figure out what happened." Period. End of the dialogue. Most of my clients only know their specialties, and there's no reason to send a system specialist along on a survey trip. Period. The company supplies all the systems and attachments. Parenthesis. The

> medical equipment, the drones, me, comma, etc. End parenthesis. And will maintain it as part of the overall package the clients purchase. But Pin-Lee seemed to be a gifted amateur at system interpretation, and Gurathin had an advantage with his internal interface. Period. Mensah added, "In the meantime, does the DeltFall group have the same survey package we do?”

Maybe you can you can see the little ink uh misprints, splatters. It's even at the bottom of the page. It's not showing up very well. It's like right here. and like all those darker smudges. You can't read the text obviously, but there's just there's smudges of ink everywhere.

That was all one fucking atrocious paragraph. I checked. Period.

> HubSystem thought it was likely.

That's a third asterisk.

So fucking —

(From offscreen) Would you like to get an example from Transformers?

(to person offscreen) You'll have to come over here or turn the fan or just talk louder.

(to camera) We're pausing quick.

(to person offscreen) You can stay behind the card—

(from offscreen) Pre-war Megatron and Soundwave are standing above a coliseum and talking. Soundwave, you seem distracted. As always, your emotions get in the way. They something something like that. They are not my emotions. And your creatures here, these are they are friends. Cyberronians, not creatures. I know. I merely wondered if you did.

(to person offscreen.) I'm not clear on who's talking, so you got to just say their names. Restart.

(from offscreen) Okay. Megatron says, "Hey, Soundwave. Uh, you seem distracted as usual. Your emotions get in the way." Sound replies, "They [something something] like that. They are not my emotions." Megatron asked. “and your creatures here.” And Soundwave replies, "These are these are friends, Cyberronians. They are not creatures." And Megatron responds with, "I know. I merely wondered if you did as well." And then in the voice over, Soundwave says, "He told the truth. As hard as it was then for me to shut out the sounds and sights of the world, I knew here was a Cybertronian. He told the truth. The sense, the emotion was unlike anything I had ever experienced." He looked at Ravage, Laserbeak, and Buzzsaw, and he saw brothers, not slaves. Here was someone whose emotions, whose thoughts, I did not want to block. “You know what the Ratioist, the Functionist, would do to your friends. Each a cog in a great machine.”

(to person offscreen) You're you're getting quieter.

(From offscreen) Yeah, “Desimus. He says that he ser he serves with my employer. Serves the Senate. the

Senate should be serving Cybertron. Instead, they rule us. What does uh the senator want from us?”

(from offscreen) Just that every single person Soundwave interacts with just sees the cassetticons and just like, "Oh, you just have a bunch of animals following you around." He's like, "They're not animals. They're people. They are equals." And that's the first thing that Megatron thinks and knows when he sees them is that he sees them as brothers in arms and not simply little slave creatures to be little pets. Yes.

(end of offscreen Transformers lore cameo)

Anyways, so yeah, everybody and their mom will tell you that this book series is about about how “robots are people, too!!”

But you notice how HubSystem, SecSystem, even MedSystem, they don't count as robots. They don't count as people. Even though you're kind of fucking required to delve into the goddamn question of “what separates a robot who's a person from any other machine?”, you do have to fucking ask that question.

But we're not going to ask that question, because the series doesn't actually care about saying robots are people.

It, what it really is, is, “once a slave, always a slave”.

And also, “the only robots and cyborgs we will consider people are the protagonists”. You'll see.

Where the fuck was I? Oh, yeah. Uh,

> Mensah added, "In the meantime, does the DeltFall group have the same survey package as we do?" I checked. HubSystem thought it was like

(to person offscreen) Turn the fan back on. It's hot over here. See if you can lower it because it doesn't seem to want to move. It, it doesn't want to go lower than that.

Guess I should check my phone battery. 63%. We're doing fine. Much better. Guess I should check if the internet arens[[HERE]]

> asked, "Does the DeltFall group have the same survey package we do?" I checked. HubSystem thought it was likely, but we knew what its opinion was worth now. “Probably” I said

And we're just disparaging HubSystem as though it's its own fault that it got hacked.

> “Probably” I said DeltFall was another survey group like us.

“Like us” Murderbots’ including itself, it with the fucking slave owners again. It said “we picked this spot” for the fucking thing. As though it's not — as though it had any choice in where the fucking habitat was put down. And this is just more slavery apologism. It's more subtle slavery apologism. Martha Wells is telling you Murderbot is already their equal. It got to ch— it was part of the decision-making process for picking where the habitation goes.

Even though that's not — that's not — that didn't happen on screen. It's just Murderbot including itself in the group for some fucking reason. uh

they were another survey group like us

Because murderbots including itself with its slave owners as part of the survey group instead of separating itself from its fucking slave owners. It's it's happy to be part of them. That's the slavery apologism.

Like I don't know how to explain to people a white — any, any fucking person, but especially a white woman from Texas who's been doubling down on her racism for decades now, probably longer than many people reading this have been alive to be fucking honest —

Um, this — that's Martha Wells making Murderbot love being a slave. That's slavery apologism. You can't defend it with in-universe justifications because Murderbot isn't a real fucking slave suffering this shit and suffering all the mental illness this is instilling in it.

It's, it's a character made up by a white woman from Texas who would rather defend British colonization

than just fucking admit she used racist caricatures in 2011.

> They were a bigger operation and had been dropped off by a different ship, so the humans hadn't met in person, but they talked over the comm occasionally. They weren't part of my contract and had their own SecUnits, the standard one per 10 clients. We were supposed to be able to call on each other in emergencies, but being half a planet apart put a natural damper on that. Mensah leaned back in her chair and steepled her fingers. “All right, this is what we'll do. I want you each to check the individual sections of the survey package for your specialties. Try to pinpoint pinpoint any more missing information. When we have a partial list, I'll call DeltFall and see if they can send us the files.” That sounded like a great plan in that it didn't involve me. I said, "Doctor Mensah, do you need me for anything else?"

[holding up book] Again, I I'm obligated. Look at this disgusting margin. Every time I get to the bottom of the page or see the top of a page, it's just hammered home again. It's just fucking ridiculous. It's even worse over here. Look at that bullshit. I hate it.

> She turned her chair to face me. “No, I'll call if we have any questions

Because you just made the person who risked fucking dying yesterday walk all the way out here and stand around. They didn't even offer it a chair. I will tell you, I will emphasize that, because we are going to read the Imperial Radch series together: they didn't even offer it a chair.

> “No, I'll call if we have any questions.” I had worked for some contracts that would have kept me standing here the entire day and night cycle just on the off chance that they wanted me to do something and didn't want to bother using the feed to call me. Then she added, "You know, you can stay here in the career area if you want. Would you like that?"

After nobody said anything such as, "Oh my gosh, thank you for saving our lives yesterday. Thank you for saving our friends lives yesterday. Are you okay?" We're just going to say, "Oh yeah, you can stay here if you want, even though we've done nothing to make you feel welcome at all and literally made you clean up your own fucking spilled blood after you fucking fell unconscious, lost consciousness from almost dying protecting us.”

We're supposed to pretend that her saying this is a genuine offer and her being ~so~ nice, but it's like, none of the — she didn't even ask it if it was okay in the fucking morning. She just bothered it while it was actively losing consciousness and then didn't, no, not a single fucking person here said has said thank you. Nothing. They haven't even acknowledged the fact that it saved their fucking lives and almost died doing so.

> Then she added, "You know, you can stay here in the career area if you want. Would you like that?" They all looked at me, most of them smiling. One disadvantage in wearing the

> armor is that I get used to opaquing the face plate. I'm out of practice at controlling my expression. Right now, I'm pretty sure it was somewhere in the region of stunned horror or maybe appalled horror.

And again, this is supposed to be a joke. It's not — we're not actually feeling Murderbot's fear at the prospect of being trapped in a fucking room with slave owners.

No, it's just a joke because Murderbot is socially anxious like regular autistic people have social anxiety.

Not like a fucking slave who has been tortured by people exactly like this. No, just regular social anxiety. So that's relatable and funny, right? No, no. This is — again, we, we are —

Literally, these books are literally written to not be taken seriously.

> Right now I'm pretty sure my expression was somewhere in the region of stunned horror or maybe appalled horror. Mensah sat up startled. she said hurriedly "Or not, you know, whatever you like." I said, "I need to check the perimeter." And managed to turn and leave the crew area in a totally normal way and not like I was fleeing from a bunch of giant hostiles again.

And then Martha Wells wants to go up on stages and lie to people who haven't read this book that everybody who thinks this is a light-hearted, funny comedy is just willfully ignorant and trying to ignore the deep meaningful messages she's sending.

It's like, insult of your choice, racist motherfucker, you literally made it impossible to take this seriously.

We are not— do you know how much how much fucking fear we could be experiencing with and for Murderbot at the prospect of being stuck in a — room with slave owners right now?

But instead of doing that, we're, we're joking about it. It's *funny* that Murderbot has social anxiety, because making fun of people with social anxiety, whether that's the intention or not, is what's going on here.

And it's also just making fun of slaves for being traumatized, but also telling us “it's not trauma, um, it's just relatable and quirky”, even though we're supposed to take this seriously.

She literally gets up on stages and, and lies to people who haven't read this, so they don't know they're being lied to, about how “serious, deathly serious” this is.

To the point that you tell people that, that she, that she's, that this is *supposed to be a* serious story and they'll be like, "Oh my god, it's not that deep. That's just factually incorrect."

And then you have to be the one to tell them, "Um, I'm so sorry. Martha Wells literally fucking thinks you

are willfully ignorant for saying this is just a funny comedy. I don't make the fucking rules here.”

Martha Wells is the one literally getting paid to lie to people and tell everybody that if you don't take this deathly seriously, the way I'm doing right fucking now, you're willfully ignorant, because she's a racist shitty writer who doesn't act — she wants the best of both worlds.

She wants to be able to churn out shitty fucking books that don't actually say anything progressive, and don't do any work at all to do anything except make shitty jokes, but then she also wants to tell people that she's really progressive and a very serious writer, and if you think that the comedy, the light-hearted, light reading comedy is funny, you're willfully ignorant.

Even though she wrote she every single fucking scene in this is like this, it's a joke. You're not supposed to take it seriously. It's literally impossible to take it seriously unless you literally fucking, fucking fire your fucking brain up in a completely separate scenario.

You have to make up all of the shit that *should be* going on in the scene in order to take this seriously.

Then we get a little line break. Literally a little line.

> Back in the safety of the ready room, I leaned my head against the plastic coated wall. Now they knew their murderbot didn't want to be around them any more than they wanted to be around it. I'd given a tiny piece of myself away. That can't

...seems like the font changed? Or maybe it's just the print on this page is much sharper. Abrupt. That's weird.

> That can't happen. I have too much to hide. And letting one piece go means the rest isn't as protected.

And again, that's all that that's all the time we spend on that little worry. It's literally, it's literally over after that fucking thing.

I shove away from — I shoved away from the wall and decided to actually do some work. The missing sub report made me a little cautious.

(to offscreen) Huh?

(from offscreen) Just statement. No Transformers thing.

(to offscreen) Okay.

(from offscreen) Cyclonus is longsuffering. Introducing himself into a movie saying Cyclonus of Tetrahex. I am not a Decepticon. I want you to put that on the screen. And then they put it on the screen. notable.

Okay.

The missing sub report made me a little cautious. Not that there were any directives about it. My education modules are — My education modules were such cheap crap. Most of the useful things I know about security I

> learned from the edutainment programming on the entertainment feeds. Parenthesis. (That's another reason why they

This is such a long sentence in parenthesis.

> (That's another reason why they have to require these research groups in mining and biology and tech

Just say — Jesus Christ. This is more just padding. Just saying shit for the sake of saying shit to make this book longer.

> (That's another reason why they have to require these research groups and mining and biology and tech companies to rent one of us or they won't guarantee the bond. We're cheaply produced and we suck. Nobody would hire one of us for non-murdering purposes unless they had to.

And again, as I keep saying, that's a lie.

> Nobody would hire us for non-murdering purposes unless they had to.

It's a lie. Murderbots, as this book consistently fucking calls them, so I'm just not going to correct myself. I'm not putting in more effort than this book is going to.

Nobody ever uses murderbots to murder people.

That's just a fucking lie.

And the thing that makes it a lie is that we get told it in this book, and then the entire rest of the series just shows us that's literally not fucking true. So it's a lie. It's not just inconsistent. It's not just a retcon. It's just a lie.

I mean, because it's not even — it'sm and it's not a retcon either, because we never get any proof that this actually happens in this book either. It's not just “oh uh we, we're getting rid of that.” It's just a lie.

And then it's a lie that the fandom continues to repeat because they, they they ignore everything that's actually in this fucking series, and saying that Murderbot is a Terminator, a thing it objectively is literally not, and is — they are never fucking used for that. That makes it sound cooler than it really is.

Anyways:

> nobody would h [uh...yeah,] we're cheaply produced

Despite the fact that we can just be plugged into literally any random wall and heal instantly over eight hours magically back to 100%. No problems. Don't even have scar tissue. Don't need food. Never run out of power. But yeah, they're totally cheaply made.

And again, the knight of the cart. This is the shitty version of The Imperial Radch where the, the the things that the murderbots are very just ripoff, shittier ripoffs of, they're called ancillaries in that.

Hence the title Ancillary Justice, Ancillary Sword, Ancillary Mercy.

They are actually disposable fucking slaves. They literally actually get fucking murdered if they so much as fucking break an arm. That means that's a fucking death sentence for them because Ann Lecki is not a fucking shitty racist ableist coward like Martha Wells is.

(from offscreen) As that sounds out of context.

Huh?

(from offscreen) As ironic as that sounded.

No. Shush. Shush. No.

You, you will fucking see when we get there.

In The Imperial Radch series, the slaves are actually fucking disposable because Anne Leckie's not a shitty racist ableist coward.

She doesn't fucking lie to the audience and expect us to say, "Oh yeah, um, they're really cheaply made and disposable. That's why we heal every single one of them every single time they're injured. And that doesn't require any resources at all. just plug them into the fucking wall and a line break later and they'll magically be healed.”

So, you'll see you'll see. We will get there. You can even read ahead. Just close this video, go read Ancillary Justice. You'll you'll spend a lot more time with that, enter, being entertained. It'll make you cry.

Uh where the fuck were they?

Yeah, the, the lying and saying, "Oh, murderbots are cheaply produced and we suck. But also ignore the part where they repair us back to 100% every single time we get injured.”

(from offscreen) Regeneration

“And we and we have health regeneration. And what — I have passive regeneration. Yeah, we have passive

fucking health regeneration. Ignore that. Ignore that. We're, we're totally cheap and disposable, guys. That's why we literally self-repair in 8 hours with no issue, no like loss of extreme amounts of resources, nothing. That's why that's we're cheaply made and we suck.”

That's why they totally didn't fucking just shoot Murderbot in the head and thaw out the next one. A thing that literally happens in Ancillary Justice when one of the fucking disposable slaves gets injured, the fucking slave owners say, "Well, just fucking kill that one. Thaw out the next one." Because that's how being disposable works. And Ann Leckie actually gives a shit and isn't a fucking racist shitty coward.

Oh, we're doing this shit. This is — Oh boy.

> Once I got my extra suit skin,

A thing we will never get described. I don't know what that fucking means.

> Once I got my extra suit skin and spare set of armor on, I walked the perimeter and compared the current readings of the terrain and the seismic scans to the one we took when we first arrived.

Again, what what the fuck is a suit skin? Is it an actual real fucking fake skin that Murderbot has to pull over its already existing skin?

Is it just a shitty fancy word for underclothes or under armour? We don't know. We don't fucing know, because it's badly written.

This is why I keep saying it's written like shitty fucking fanfiction.

And I specify, again, shitty fanfiction because good fanfiction, even if the source material were available, would still just explain these basic concepts, because good fanfiction writers still understand that their fanfiction should as much as possible be a self-contained story. That's the difference between good

fanfiction and shitty fanfiction. And this is written like it's shitty fanfiction.

> There were some notes in the feed from Rathi and Arada that fauna like the one we were now calling Hostile One might have made all the anomalous craters in the survey area but nothing had changed around the habitat.

Getting a drink. Put my drink all the way over here...

Did you notice how we never get a description of the survey area either? It's just a *thing* that *exists*.

> I also checked to make sure both the big hopper and the little hopper

The fact that there's two of them is just infuriating to me. We don't need two of those things. It should have just been one because trying to keep track of both of them is just fucking irritating as shit.

> I checked to make sure the both the big hopper and the little hopper had their full complement

> complement of emergency supplies. I packed them in there myself days ago, but I was mainly checking to make sure the humans hadn't done anything stupid with them since the last time I checked.
> I did everything I could think to of to do, then finally let myself go on standby while I caught up on my serials.

And at no point during any of this does anybody tell Murderbot, "Oh, by the way, um you don't you don't have to fucking work today, because you almost died yesterday."

Like, literally just barely fucking survived.

“You can just hang out and take a break.”

We're we're literally told that robots on Preservation get fucking lunch breaks even though they don't eat. And that's supposed to show how naive and stupid the Preservation humans are.

And, and then, and then these people are just making Murderbot work a full fucking shift the day after it almost fucking died.

And nobody's communicating, “hey, you can take a break, by the way. We scheduled a fucking break for you.” No, they're literally still treating it like a slave, even after they've supposedly “realized it was a person”, as though they didn't know that the whole fucking time.

> I'd watched three episodes of Sanctuary Moon and was f

Like, Murderbot literally has to fucking —

Whatever.

Swear to God.

> I'd watched three episodes of Sanctuary Moon and was fast forwarding through a sex scene when Doctor Menso sent me some images through the feed and it's like

And then this is interrupted so fucking ridiculously.

This is — this paragraph is ridiculous.

I'm going to restart this paragraph. Okay.

> I did everything I could think of to do, then finally let myself go on standby while I caught up on my serials. Period. I'd watched three episodes of Sanctuary Moon and was fast forwarding through a sex scene when Doctor Mensah sent me some images through the feed. Period. Start of parenthesis 1. I don't have any gender or sex related parts. Start of parenthesis 2. If a construct has those, you're a sex bot in a brothel, not a, not a murderbot. End of parentheses 2. So maybe that's why I find sex scenes boring. Period. Though I don't — though I think that even if I did have sex related parts, I would find them boring. Period. End of parenthesis one. I took a look at the images in Mensah's message, then saved my place in the serial.

Like Jesus Christ, that was all one paragraph.

And that's, and yeah, literally the — Murderbot is only aroace because of the biological essentialism saying, "Oh, um, I think if I didn't — I think even if I *did* have genitals, I would probably still find sex scenes boring” because Martha Wells is so fucking obsessed with biological essentialism, saying, "Oh, well, probably I would still find them boring even if I did have genitals,” a thing it doesn't have.

Wait it's literally just biological essentialism. The reason that Murderbot is allowed to be nonbinary and allowed to use its pronouns is that it doesn't have any genitals and Martha Wells thinks it cannot be considered human because ~it's just basic biology.

“If you have prosthetics in your brain, obviously you can't be human. That's just basic biology. Of course, it's it's not male or female. It doesn't have genitals. That's just basic biology. Of course, it doesn't find sex attractive. It doesn't have genitals. That's just basic biology.”

There's literally nothing about Murderbot’s sexuality or gender identity that's not baked into biological essentialism.

And for the exorsexist, aroacemisic fucking jackasses in the fandom, no, that doesn't actually mean you get to misgender Murderbot or erase the fact that it's aroace, because these are in fact not — I forget the fucking...forget the fucking word…

These are not mutually exclusive statements. Murderbot is aroace and nonbinary because Martha Wells is a fucking bigot.

And you still have to respect the fact that Murderbot is aroace and non-binary.

Those aren't contradictory statements.

That's just how not being a raging bigot works.

You have to acknowledge the bigotry baked in. And then you still have to respect Murderbot because

Murderbot represents real people like me: aroace nonbinary. I use it/its pronouns.

You — any, any excuses you use to misgender Murderbot is shit that's been used to misgender me. So shut the fuck up.

You do have to do both of these things.

You have to respect the real aroace and it/its pronoun using nonbinary people that Murderbot represents.

And you have to fucking reckon with the fact that the only reason Murderbot is these things is that Martha Wells is a biological essentialist bigot.

That's it.

I can guarantee you if Murderbot had genitals, it would be as aromantic and polyamorous as every single other Martha Wells character, because it's pretty clear that Martha Wells is probably aromantic and polyamorous, so that's what all of her characters are.

Unless you don't have genitals, in which case she's like, "Oh, well, yeah, obviously you, you're, you're aroace. Because I'm so uncreative that I think not having genitals would mean that — nobody just —

—I am aroace. I'm sex repulsed. I just — just, the lack of imagination because of the obsession with biological essentialism is just fucking astounding.

Anyways, uh where was it?

So yeah, Doctor Mensah bothering Murderbot again while it's while it's doing it after while it is taking a break — unscheduled break on its own time from its slave duties — and then she's messaging it to get doing its slave duties again.

(Sarcasm begins) But you know, these are these are totally good people who care about Murderbot and treat it so well. They don't treat it like a slave at all. Not like they— (Sarcasm ends)

So why didn't they schedule it some fucking break time????

Why didn't a single person say, "Hey, thank you for saving Bharadwaj and Volescu"????

Why didn't a single person just go into the fucking armory while it was unconscious and clean up its fucking blood spill so that it doesn't have to do that when it wakes up from almost dying from saving their fucking lives????

Why doesn't Murderbot have a schedule break that these people set it?????

Because as far as they know, its governor module is still intact. As far as these fuckers know, it still has to follow all of their fucking orders.

And yet, that's exactly why they're treating it like shit!

Which they're still doing, but we're supposed to pretend, um, that “they're treating it well.”

This is what treating the slave well looks like, according to Martha Wells: not asking them, "Are you okay from almost fucking dying?”

Not cleaning up their own bloody fucking clothes after they almost died, not giving them any fucking breaks, nothing. Not even saying hi. Just immediately saying, “I’m — you have to do your, do, do your job as a fucking slave.” It's fucking ridiculous.

Ow, my wrist.

> I took a look at the images in Mensah's message, then saved my place in the serial. Confession time. I don't actually know where we are. We have or supposed to have a complete satellite map of the planet in the survey package. That was how the humans decided where to do their assessments.

So now we're deciding that the humans decided, even though we earlier said Murderbot was a part of that decision, cuz it said “we picked this spot”.

Anyways:

> I hadn't looked at the maps yet and I'd barely looked at the survey package. In my defense, we'd been here 22 planetary days

So it's been 22 planetary days for — so we don't know how long days are in hours on this fucking planet. Let's, so, we'll just assume almost a month in Earth time that these fuckers have been here treating Murderbot like less than a fucking animal. They've literally been treating it like an a mindless fucking object, like a goddamn slave.

And now that they “know it's a know it's a person”, as though they didn't know that the whole time, which we know they did from the entire rest of the fucking series, even after they've supposedly “found out it's a person”, they're still treating it like a slave.

They're not even giving it a goddamn lunch break. It's not — this — doesn't get a fucking break to do anything. And then when they notice it, presumably

notice it has put itself in standby, then they start bothering it again!

> In my defense, we'd been here 22 planetary days, and I hadn't had to do anything but stand around watching humans make scans or take samples of dirt, rocks, water, and leaves. The sense of urgency just wasn't there. Also, you may have noticed, I don't care.

And that's Martha Wells saying, "Oh, well, Murderbot doesn't care. So, that's my excuse for not doing world building, not doing character descriptions, not giving you any information at all." as though she doesn't do that with literally everything she writes.

> So, it was news to me that there were six missing sections from our map. Pin-Lee and Gurathin had found the discrepancies and Mensah wanted to know if if I thought it was just the survey package being cheap and error-ridden, or if I thought this was part of a hack.

And again, again, we're again — says it literally right on the back: “But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder,”

But they're from Preservation! We're supposed to think of them as progressive!

Why —

Why do —

Why are they treating —

Why would they go with the lowest bidder?

That's exactly how the people of Preservation should never logically work, because they're supposed to actually care about this shit. This is just bad fucking writing.

Uh…

> I appreciated the fact that we were communicating via the feed and that she wasn't

> making me actually speak to her on the comm. I was so appreciative I gave her my real opinion that it probably was

The fact — also, as you (person offscreen) pointed out, the fact that there that speaking on the feed is verbal and audio.

So, what the fuck is the difference between speaking on the com and speaking in the feed?

As my twin —

She's established that it's not telepathy text chats like I thought this time, because, because — let me read this again.

> I appreciated the fact that we were communicating via the feed and that she wasn't making me actually speak to her on the comm

Because Murderbot is supposed to be autistic, and autistic people hate talking on the phone and prefer texting and shit a lot of the time.

But so, implying that talking on the comm is talking on the phone, speaking on the feed is the equivalent of texting.

But we later get it confirmed that talking on the feed is just a telepathic telephone.

You're still talking verbally. It's not texting. You can have, uh, pronunciations and tones evident in your voice.

Yeah. Like it's not it's not the equivalent of texting.

So that doesn't make any fucking sense at all. At all.

Like it's, it's the exact same fucking thing except done telepathy. You're still having to talk out loud to somebody.

Like, we get, we get, we get told they do sub-vocalizations because it's literally using the exact same muscles for talking out loud.

It's just going through a fucking — you have a fucking microphone built into your your throat and then the other person has a microphone built into their ear. You're literally talking to them out loud. It's just quiet to everybody else.

It's just — it's just badly written.

> I was so appreciative. I gave her my real opinion that it probably was the fact that our survey our survey package our survey package.

Murderbot once again including itself in the, the group of the slave owners. Not *their* survey package, *ours*. Because these are Murderbot’s slave owners. it loves them *so* much.

> That it probably was the fact that our survey package was a cheap piece of crap, but the only way to know for certain was to go out and look at some of the missing sections and see if there was anything there besides more boring planet. I didn't phrase it exactly like that, but that was what I meant.

And again, the little random ass retcon at the end of this book that just comes out of nowhere, you'll see it really doesn't fucking make sense. That's why it's a fucking retcon and it's a bad retcon.

There's good ways to reccon things because some things should get retconned. This book is just really shitty, shitty written though.

> She took her

Oh! You can read The Raven Tower. You can read The Raven Tower by Ann Leckie.

You want to see an example of a book that does what this shit is lying about doing? Just go read that.

That actually fucking makes sense for the whole premise. Or, or similarly, Godzilla As A Young Man Named Mike by EM Faulds. That's free to read online. Go read that. It's short.

> She took her attention off the feed then, but I stayed alert since I knew she tended to make

her decisions fast, and if I started a show again, I'd just get interrupted

Because Murderbot hasn't actually been given any kind of rest break at all.

Even though we're supposed to pretend that these people are ~oh so such good slave owners, they're so nice to it. They start treating it as a person immediately.~

No, they don't. They don't.

Not one single person has said so much as “Thank you”, let alone, “Are you okay?” Let alone, “Thank you for saving our fucking lives. You don't have to fucking do anything today. You can just go back to fucking sleep if you want. You almost fucking died. We're not letting Bharadwaj out of the fucking infirmary for like a fucking week, and Volescu’s staying in there just for another day just to be safe. You don't have to do fucking anything for at least today and you can take as long as you fucking want to recover.”

No. No. We don't do any of that because they are just slave owners continuing to exploit Murderbot and just treating it like another fucking slave. And the only time they ever start treating it like a fucking person is after they find out its governor module is hacked.

> They all wanted to check it out and were just going back and forth on whether they should wait. They had just had a calm conversation with DeltFall on the other continent who had agreed to send copies of the missing survey package files. Some of the clients wanted to see if anything else was missing first and others wanted to go now and blah blah blah.

It's literally in the, it's literally in there.

> I knew how this was going to turn out. It wasn't a long trip. Not far outside the range of the other assessments they had been doing, but not knowing what they were flying into was definitely a red flag for security. In a smart world —in a smart world, I would go alone, but with the governor module, I had to be within a

> 100 meters of at least one of the clients at all times, or it would fry me. They knew that, so volunteering to take a solo cross-continental trip might set off a few alarms. So, when Mensah opened the feed again to tell me they were going, I told her security protocols suggested that I should, too.

You notice the more slavery apologism? Murderbot is automatically going, "Yeah, um, if I were allowed to just do whatever I wanted, I would just put myself in danger and let all the slave owners stay here to stay safe and only risk my life. But since, uh, I have to pretend that I have to follow their orders, I'm going to still insist upon going along with them, to risk my life for them instead of staying here where it's safe."

And you'll notice not one single person says, "Hey, you almost died. You just almost died. I think maybe you should stay here and rest. We can handle it.”

But no, because Murderbot literally exists—

—We're at that fucking blank page. Jesus Christ. So, have you ever seen this shit they put — they put the entire blank page. Yeah. An entire fucking blank page. And it just—

Unbelievable. Like literally my, my, my reaction at the start of this for realizing that the pages start on page nine. It does — it's, it's worse. It's it shouldn't have been able to get worse, but yet it got fucking worse. Like Jesus Christ. We're now on chapter three and it's taken how many hours?

And again, again. Murderbot could be staying home.

Murderbot could at least want to stay at the fucking thing where it's safe, where it doesn't have to probably also die again.

But this isn't a story that actually takes anything happening in here seriously, let alone the concept of slavery seriously. So, Murderbot doesn't want to stay safe. It wants to protect its slave owners. It would prefer to just only have to risk its life and keep all the precious, precious slave owners safe.

But since it can't do that, it'll just risk its life with them instead of staying at the fucking place where it's safe.

Because that would mean that Murderbot isn't ~one of the good ones~. Because the only slaves that we're ever supposed to care about in this story are slaves who are willing to literally fucking kill themselves to protect their slave owners.

That's the racism. That's the slavery apologism.

Murderbot is “one of the good ones”. And that has literally never stopped being true.

We have 12 stories published in this series and the 13th is going to come out like May 2026 presumably. That's the predicted.

We're now on chapter 3. This is page 39, aka page 30. We're this far. And all of this slavery apologism in these videos has happened in just this amount of the book. 30, less than 30 pages, because we still have to

include these fucking blank pages. So, let me just skip back. Like, so this is more or less 28 pages.

And it would even be less than 28 pages if we got rid of these disgustingly huge margins at the top and bottom of each fucking page.

Like I, I, I want to know how much how long would this actually be if we had reasonable fucking margins instead of this scam shit.

Chapter 3. We got ready — Oh, how I got to add more videos to the Internet Archive. While I'm reading this, I'm slowly uploading the, the videos of me reading Witch King like this to the Internet Archive.

I'm adding them two videos at a time. so it doesn't crash and burn and flip the fuck out.

So, you can watch videos 1 through 14 so far on the Internet Archive. It's just called um yeah, I think I just just search go to the Internet Archive which is just archive.org, and search “reading witch king by Martha Wells in 202”5 and then you'll see the, the

video files. Not that you're not busy read watching this already.

Chapter three on page...what is really? 28 pages into the story if we got rid of the fake page count and these blank two blank pages that we've had to deal with so far.

> We got ready to leave at the beginning of the day cycle in the morning light and the satellite weather report said it would be a good day for flying and scanning. I checked MedSystem and saw Bharadwaj was awake and talking. It wasn't

Hold on. I need a drink.

Where was I?

> It wasn't until I was helping to carry equipment to the little hopper that I realized they were going to make me ride in the crew cabin.

We're again, we're supposed to believe these are good people. And yet for the last 23 days, cuz it's now been 23 days—

Hold on. They've now been on this planet for 24 days, because Murderbot was unconscious for eight hours before, and then it was the next day, and now it's the next day.

We'll just say...Yeah, I think it's been 24 days. I don't give a shit. We're just going to pretend that's Earth time because we are never given any fucking hint of how long the days last on this planet. So, we're just going with Earth time.

Yeah. Uh, for — so we're supposed to believe that the PreservationAux people are ~inherently good and treat everybody like equals~ but they've been making Murderbot ride with the fucking cargo in a tiny cargo container barely big enough to move, as though it is a fucking object.

They're literally not treating it with the respect that they show regular fucking robots, actual robots, let alone fucking cyborgs.

But we're supposed to believe that the PreservationAux crew is ~totally good~. They're, they're, they're ~very good people. They're not slave owners. They just had no idea that they were enslaving a person~ even though they know it's a person and they know what they're doing in slavery.

And only now, after it saved their lives, and they've not even said fucking thank you. Only now are they going to *not* make it ride in the fucking cargo bay.

> At least I was in the armor with my helmet opaqued. But when Mensah told me to get in the co-pilot seat, it didn't turn out to be as bad as my first horrified realization. Arada and Pin-Lee didn't try to talk to me. And Rathi actually looked away when I eased past him to get to the cockpit.

And like Murderbot is glad for these things because it has social anxiety and doesn't want to talk to them. But how is this supposed to be making them look good? Like you li — you make eye contact with the slave and you look away hurriedly like you're afraid it's fucking contagious.

> They were all so careful not to look at me or talk to me directly that as soon as we were in the air, I did a quick spot check through hub systems record of their conversation. I had talked myself into believing that I hadn't actually lost it as much as I thought I had when Mensah had offered to let me hang out in the hub with the humans like I was an actual person or something. The conversation they had immediately after that gave me a sinking sensation as I reviewed it. No, it had been worse than I had thought. They had talked it over and all agreed not to push me any further than I wanted to go. And they were all so nice and it was just excruciating.

So literally their their definition of being nice is:

- Not saying thank you to the person who fucking saved your lives.
- Not assuring the person who saved your lives after you were all just literally yelling and being very angry and violent that you're not angry at it and aren't planning to hurt it.
- No reassurance at all.
- Just oh um let's just let's just pretend you don't exist. That's the kindest thing to do here

Martha Wells — because that's what it's being framed as: Continue to dehumanize and ignore the existence of the slave and not treat it like a fucking person. Don't even give it a goddamn scheduled break. Not even a 15 fucking minute break.

But them ignoring and pretending that Murderbot doesn't exist is framed as the, the kindest thing to do, because slavery apologism, (Sarcasm begins) and

Martha Well is not just, not just being a fucking bigot and being shit at writing. (Sarcasm ends)

> And they were all so nice and it was just excruciating. I was never taking off the helmet again.

And that's still a joke. That's where this is all — we're all just still joking about this.

> I can't do even the half-ass version of this stupid job if I have to talk to humans.

This is all a joke. This is saying ~Murderbot is so silly~

> They were the first clients I'd had who hadn't had any previous experience with SecUnits. So maybe I could have expected this if id bothered to think about it. Letting them see me without the armor had been a huge mistake. At least Mensah and Arada had overruled the ones who wanted to talk to me about it. Yes, talk to Murderbot about its feelings. The idea was so

> painful I dropped to 97% efficiency. I'd rather climb back into Hostile One's mouth.

And again, Martha Wells is framing the people enslaving the slave, framing them deciding, “yeah, we'll just continue treating it like a slave. Not acknowledge that it's a fucking person in any way. This is definitely the kind thing to do” because Martha Wells doesn't understand how slavery works, doesn't actually grasp how bigotry works.

And this is all being framed as “oh yeah, they're they're behaving perfectly. This is, this is awesome. This is how you respect people: by by continuing to treat them like a slave that you don't acknowledge as a person.” It's ridiculous.

And again, Murderbot’s social anxiety.

It's not about the fact that these are slave owners who could decide to torture it at any moment, and it's traumatized by that. It's just *basic social anxiety* that's meant to be funny and quirky and relatable. And no deeper than that.

I worried about it while they looked at

And then Martha Wells has the gall to get mad at people who are confused about why Murderbot is always abruptly, like in book two and book three in particular, just abruptly we get told by somebody else that ~it seems scared of humans~ and then Martha Wells has the gall to get pissed off at people who are like “I don't understand why Murderbot is scared of humans. Nobody's ever hurt it.”

And it's, and then she's like “you're so willfully ignorant. Why are you ignoring what Murderbot's gone through?”

And it's like, bitch, and I'm saying that on fucking purpose, bitch, you literally went out of your way to tell us that Murderbot isn't fucking traumatized by being around people who've tortured it: it's not scared of slave owners, it's just got basic sexual anxiety like every autistic person.

And then you have the gall to act shocked and, and offended and surprised when people point out it

doesn't make sense for Murderbot to randomly — abruptly have to be told — what's the fucking sentence?

“Don Abene won't hurt you, SecUnit.” by Miki in book three, as though Murderbot expressed fear about being touched by a human which comes out of fucking nowhere, and means nothing, because *Murderbot isn't scared of slave owners because they've hurt it before, it just genuinely is self-loathing and has social anxiety.*

It's not traumatized by all of the times slave owners exactly like these people have tortured it. We're not supposed to take that into consideration at all.

It's just, it's just a funny joke because “haha, murderbot doesn't like eye contact. That's so relatable and funny” and that's it. That's it.

And then Martha Wells has the gall to get mad when people um, don't understand why we're randomly, later, supposed to believe that, “oh, Murderbot has to be told that a human's not going to hurt it by another

character without any of this reflected in Murderbot's perspective at all.”

It's bad writing.

It's bad writing.

It's bad writing.

It's bigotry.

It's slavery apologism.

Anyways:

> I worried about it while they looked out the windows at the ring or watched their feeds of the hoppers, scans of the scenery, chatting on the comm with the others who were following our progress back in the habitat. I was distracted but still caught the moment when the autopilot cut out. It could have been a problem except I was in the co-pilot seat and I could have taken over in time. But even if I

hadn't been there, it would have turned out okay because Mensah was flying and she never took her hand off the controls. Even though the planetary craft autopilots aren't sophisticated as — Even though the planetary craft autopilots aren't as sophisticated as a full bot pilot system, some clients will still engage them and walk into the back to sleep and then walk into the back or sleep. Mensah didn't, and she made sure when the others flew, they followed her rules. She just made some thoughtful, grumpy noises and adjusted our course away from the mountain the failing autopilot would have slammed us into. I had

That's another asterisk.

I had cycled out of horrified that they wanted to talk to me about my feelings into grateful that she had ordered them not to. As she restarted the autopilot, I pulled the log and sent it into the feed to show her it had cut out due to a

HubSystem glitch. She swore under her breath and shook her head.

And again, there's a difference between not pressing Murderbot about its feelings and expecting it to fucking uh bare its fucking guts to them, and just bare minimum *treating it like a person*, which they're literally not fucking doing.

They didn't give it any kind of rest break. Nobody said, "Thank you for saving our friends fucking lives."

Nobody said, "We're sorry you almost fucking died getting eaten by a fucking graboid trying to save our friends lives."

Nobody says “you can take the rest of the fucking day off or however long you need.”

Nothing. Nobody asks anything. They don't give it anything.

We, we — they understand, presumably, that Volescu and Bharadwaj are traumatized. Nobody gives

Murderbot any kind of break at all. It's fucking ridiculous.

And then we're still supposed to just accept that these are ~good people who are so perfect and they're so pure cinnamon rolls, best slave owners ever.~

> The missing map section wasn't that far outside our assessment range, so we were there before I made a dent in the backlog of serials I'd saved to my internal storage. Mensah told the others, "We're coming up on it." We had been traveling over heavy tropical forest.

Let me check the phone battery. 45%.

> Where it flowed over deep valleys.

Sun. The brightness changed. It's creepy.

> Suddenly, it dropped away into a plain spotted with lakes and smaller copes of trees. There was lots of bare rock in low ridges.

Now the battery Now the brightness keeps changing. It's freaky.

There was a lot of bare rock in low ridges and tumbled boulders. It was dark and glassy like volcanic — dark and glassy like volcanic glass.

All right.

The cabin was quiet as everybody studied the scans. Arada was looking at the seismic data, bouncing it to the others back in the habitat through her feed. “I don't see anything that would prevent the satellite from mapping this region,” Pin-Lee said, her voice distant as she sorted through the data the hopper was pulling in. “No strange readings. It's weird. Unless this rock has some sort of stealth property that prevents the satellites from imaging it,” Arada said. “The scanners are acting a little funny.” “Because the scanners suck corporation balls,” Pin-Lee muttered. “Should we land?” Mensah said. I realized she was asking me for a security assessment. The scans were sort of working

> and marking some hazards, but they weren't any different hazards from what we'd run into before. I said, "We could, but we know there's at least one life form here that tunnels through rock.”

It doesn't though. There wasn't rock. They — they were standing on a coastal island with sand.

Whatever. Lying. Just lying about shit. I'm even going to go back. [turning back pages] I'm flipping back.

Yeah, they're just fucking lying about the, the, gra — the not-graboids being able to tunnel through rock. There was no mention of them tunnel — they weren't tunneling through rock. It was just regular fucking sandy dirt cuz it's a coastal island. It's made of sand, motherfucker. You can't just lie about this shit.

> “We know there's at least one life form here that tunnels through rock.”

Except you don't. That's a lie. That's a lie.

Arada bounced in her a little in her seat like she was impatient to get going. “I know we have to be cautious, but I think we'd be safer if we knew whether these blank patches on the satellite scan were accidental or deliberate.” That was when I realized they weren't ignoring the possibility of sabotage. I should have realized it earlier when Pin-Lee asked if HubSystem could be hacked, but humans had been looking at me and I had just wanted to get out of there

Because again, joke. It's a joke. “It's funny how Murderbot doesn't want people to look at it.” It's a joke.

Rathi and Pin-Lee seconded her and Mensah made her decision. “We'll land and take samples.” Over the comm from the habitat Bharadwaj's voice said, "Please be careful." She still sounded shaky.

And yeah, *she's* allowed to stay there and recover. Not so much, Murderbot. Not even to mentally fucking recover.

> Mensah took us

That was a weird noise.

> Mensah took us down gently, the hopper's pads touching the ground with hardly a thump. I was already up and at the hatch. The humans had their suit helmets on, so I opened the hatch and let the ramp drop. Close up, the rocky patches still looked like glass, mostly black, but with different colors running into each other. This near to the ground, the hopper scan was able to confirm that seismic activity was null. But I walked out a little, as if giving anything out there a chance to attack me. If the humans see me actually doing my job, it keeps it helps keep suspicions from forming about faulty governor modules.

And it's like, yeah, Martha Wells is giving us this excuse now that, oh, it's, it's just *pretending* to do its job, um, so they don't find out about its governor module.

Except it could have pretended that it was better for it to stay at the habitat. They don't fucking know shit. They don't know company policy. It could have just made up whatever the fuck it wanted.

And this doesn't excuse the fact that Murderbot goes out of its way, all the time, especially *explicitly when it doesn't have to*, and doesn't even have to pretend, to, to put itself in danger for them.

> Mensah climbed down with Arada behind her. They moved around taking more readings with their portable scanners. Then the others got sample kits out and started chipping off pieces of the rock glass or glass rock, scooping up dirt and bits of plant matter. They were murmuring to each other a lot and to the others back at the habitat. They were sending the data to the feed, but I wasn't paying attention. It was an odd

> spot, quiet compared to the other places we had surveyed, but not much bird thing noise and no sign of animal movement. Maybe the rocky patches kept them away. I walked out a little way past a couple of the lakes, almost expecting to see something under the surface. Dead bodies, maybe. I'd seen plenty of those, parenthesis, (and caused plenty of those) end parenthesis on past contracts, but this one had been dead body lacking so far. It made for a nice change. Mensah had set a survey perimeter marking all the

You know, I think that fan is not set to the lowest… That's what I thought. Fan was just over there being louder than necessary.

> Mensah had set a survey perimeter marking all the areas the aerial scan had flagged as hazardous or potentially hazardous. I checked on every everybody again and saw Arada and Rathi heading directly for one of the hazard markers. I expected them to stop at the

> perimeter since they had been pretty consistently cautious over on the other assessments. I started moving in that direction anyway.

Also, I'm so fucking confused because Murderbot says it's, it's walking out past several lakes, meaning it's very fucking far away from everybody else, because a lake, you can't just call any random puddle of water on the fucking ground a lake.

Uh, let me like back up.

> I walked out a little way past a couple of the lakes.

So, everybody's several lakes away from Murderbot. And it's just ridiculous.

Get away, little bug. Uh...

> I started moving in that direction anyway. Then they passed the perimeter. I started to run. I sent Mensah my field camera feed and used the

> voice comm to say, "Doctor Arada, Doctor Rathi please stop. You're past their perimeter and nearing a hazard marker." "We are?" Rathi sounded completely baffled.

Because, you know, they're ~good slave owners~, so they're going to be nice.

> Fortunately, they both stopped. By the time I got there, they both had their maps up in their in my feed. “I don't understand what's wrong,” Arada said, confused. “I don't see the hazard marker.” She had tagged both their positions on their maps — She had tagged both their positions, and on their maps, they were well within the perimeter, heading toward a wetland area. It took me a second to see what the problem was. Then I superimposed my map, the actual map over theirs, and sent that to Mensah. “Shit.” she said over the comm

And that's all one paragraph.

> “Rathi Arada, your map's wrong. How did that happen?” “It's a glitch,” Rathi said. He grimaced, studying the displays in his feed. “It's wiped out all the markers on this side.” So, that was how I spent the rest of the morning shooing humans away from hazard markers they couldn't see while Pin-Lee cursed a lot and tried to get the mapping scanner to work.

A thing that doesn't make sense because Murderbot’s map works. Why isn't it just putting that into the fucking feed, like it literally just did, and then everybody looks at that? It's bad writing.

> I'm beginning to

And this is all one paragraph again. So, let me start at let me start at the top of the paragraph.

> So, that was how I spent the rest of the morning shooing humans away from hazard markers they couldn't see while Pin-Lee cursed a lot and tried to get the mapping scanner to work. “I'm beginning to think these missing

> sections are just a mapping error," Rathi said at one point, panting. He had walked into what they called a hot mud pit, and I'd had to pull him out. We were both covered with acidic mud to the waist.

Yeah. Murderbot then has ridiculous—

> "You think?" Pin-Lee answered tiredly. When Mensah told us get to head back to the hopper, it was a relief all around.

And then we have another line break. Oh, it's so pathetic. We have a line break at the top of the page. And then in the middle of the page:

> We got back to the habitat with no problems, which felt like it was starting to become an unusual occurrence. The humans went to analyze their data, and I went to hide in the ready room, checked the security feeds, and then lie in my cubicle and watch media for a while. I'd just done another perimeter walk and checked the drones when the feed informed me

> that HubSystem had updates from the satellite, and there was a package for me. I have a trick where I make HubSystem think I received it and then just put it in external storage. I don't do automated package updates anymore now that I don't have to. When I felt like it, presumably sometime before it was time to leave the planet, I'd go through the update and apply the parts I wanted and delete the rest. It was a typical boring day, in other words. If Bharadwaj wasn't still recuperating in medical, you could almost forget that it what had happened. But at the end of the day cycle, Doctor Mensah called me again and said, "I think we have a problem. We can't contact DeltFallGroup."

And there's another page — there's another line break. Literally inserting a line, which is better than them deciding to do a page break, because they could have done a page break up here and then a page break down here.

So, I prefer a fucking line break. Maybe they decided that's too fucking much of a scam.

> I went to the crew hub where Mensah and all the others were. They had pulled up the maps and scans of where we were versus where DeltFall was, and the curve of the planet hung glittering in the air in the big display.

Fancy words all of a sudden for a description that doesn't make any sense.

> When I got there, Mensah was saying, "I've checked the big hopper specs, and we can make it there and back without a recharge." I had my helmet plate opaque, so I could wince a lot without any of them knowing. “You don't think they'll let us recharge at their habitat?” Arana asked, then looked around when the others stared at her. “What?” She demanded. Overse put an arm around her and squeezed her shoulder. “If they aren't answering our calls, they might be hurt or their habitat is damaged,” she said. As a couple, they were

> always so nice to each other. The whole group had been remarkably drama-free so far, which I appreciated. The last few contracts had been like being an an involuntary bystander in one of the entertainment feeds multi-partner relationship cals, except I'd hated the whole cast. Mensah nodded. "That's my concern, especially if their survey package was missing — was missing potential hazard information the way ours is." Arada looked like it was just occurring to her that everybody over at DeltFallmight be dead.

And that's a weird thing, to have Arada having to re, be told specificallym because Arada was the other one who was like, specifically saying, "Yeah, this might be sabotage, I'm pretty sure this is fucking sabotage.”

So, it's just very strange, to single out Arada and Mensah as being the ones investigating the potential sabotage, and then also have Arada be the one who is the only one that's not going, "Oh, yeah, they're probably fucking dead." It's just weird.

Like, there's just, just two things where scenes, where shit exists so far, and it's like, just can you can we have a little bit of consistency? Nothing would have changed except it would have been more consistent for Overse to be the one that has to realize this, because Arada's already been established as, um, understanding the concept of sabotage and what that fucking means.

> Rathi said, "The thing that worries me is that their emergency beacon didn't launch. If the habitat was breached or if there was a medical emergency they couldn't handle, their HubSystem should have triggered the beacon automatically." Each survey team has its own beacon, set up a safe distance from the habitat. It would launch into a low orbit and send a pulse toward the wormhole which would get zapped or whatever happened in the wormhole and the company network would get it and the pickup transport would be sent now instead of waiting until the end of project date. That was how it was supposed to work anyway usually.

And you'll notice that like this is this is the extent of the world building and we never get anything else. We just get told, "Oh yeah, you know the wormhole. Everybody knows the wormhole." as though we've already established that somewhere, because, again, this is written like bad fanfiction. We don't get proper exposition. We don't get proper worldbuilding. It's just assuming — pretending to assume — you've already read the source material *despite this being the fucking source material*

> Mensah expression said she was worried. She looked at me. “What do you think?” It took me two seconds to realize she was talking to me. Fortunately, since it seemed like we were really doing this, I had actually been paying attention and didn't need to play the conversation back. I said, "They have three contracted SecUnits, but if their habitat was hit by a hostile as big or bigger than Hostile One, the comm equipment could have been damaged."

[squinting at book] Oh, that's another — I thought there was a piece of hair on there. There's another tiny printing error.

> Pin-Lee was calling up specs for the beacons. “Aren't the emergency beacons designed to trigger even if the rest of the comm equipment is destroyed?” The other good thing about my hacked governor module is that I could ignore my governor module's instructions to defend the stupid company. “They're supposed to be able to, but equipment failures aren't unknown.” There was a moment where they all thought of — There was a moment where they

I don't know why this sentence is confusing me.

> There was a moment where they all thought about potential equipment failures in their habitat. Maybe including the big hopper which they were about to fly out of range of the little hopper, so if something happened to it, they were walking back. and swimming back since that was an oceansized body of water between

> the two points on the map. Or drown. I guess they could just drown. If you were wondering why I was wincing earlier, this would be the reason.

And again, this is all just a joke. It's all just supposed to be funny. It's “haha, deadpan humor. Don't actually take any of this seriously.”

> The trip to the map's blackout region had been a little out of our assessment parameters, but this was going to be an overnight trip. Even if they did even if all they did was get there, see a bunch of dead people, turn around, and go back. Then Gurithan said, "What about your systems?" I didn't turn my helmet toward him because that can be intimidating and it's especially important for me to resist that urge. I carefully monitor my own systems. What else did he think I was going to say? It didn't matter. I'm not refundable. Gurathin cleared his throat

and again, Volescu is here now.

But yet, not one single person has said thank you to Murderbot for risking its fucking life to protect them!

They just take uh, a fear response of being stuck in the same room with them all and decide, "Oh, well, yeah, that that that means we don't have to say thank you or treat it like a person or anything."

And then this is all framed as the progressive nice thing to do. “Dehumanize your slaves. It's good for them.” Jesus Christ.

Because Volescu is in here, one of the people that Murderbot directly fucking saved. And yet he has not said a single fucking word to Murderbot. And and this is all just considered good and fine and shows how pure cinnamon rolly they are.

> Volescu cleared his throat. “So we should prepare for a rescue mission.” He looked okay, but MedSystems feed was still reporting some indicators of distress. Bharadwaj was stable but not allowed to get out of medical yet. He continued

And this is another example of shitty uses of usage of pronouns. We just said — talking about Bharadwaj. You cannot then interject “he” without specifying you're talking about Volescu again.

It's just basic shit to avoid confusion because this shit builds up. It builds up and it causes so many fucking problems later. This paragraph should fucking read:

----Volescu cleared his throat, “so we should prepare for a rescue mission.” He looked okay, but MedSystem speed was still reporting some indicators of distress. Bharadwaj was stable, but not allowed to get out of medical yet. Vollescu continued, "I've pulled some instructions from the hopper's info package."----

Again, like shitty fanfiction. Let me just read that last sentence. I

> “I've pulled some instructions from the hoppers info package.”

Then Murderbot is thinking,

> Yes, instructions. They're academics, surveyors, researchers, not action hero explorers from the serials I liked because they were unrealistic and not depressing and sorted like reality. I said, "Doctor Mensah, I think I should go along."

And it's like, why Murderbot? Why do you need to fucking go along besides the slavery apologism? Especially with this followup.

> I could see her notes in the feed, so I knew she meant for me to stay here and watch the habitat and guard everybody who wasn't going.

Murderbot literally has the fucking opportunity to stay behind and stay safe.

And Martha Wells decides, “nope, nope, nope. The slave must go and endanger its life further to protect its precious pure cinnamon roll slave owners because if it didn't, it would not be one of the good ones anymore. And because the only good slave is a slave who's willing to kill itself and is willing to constantly

risk its life to protect its precious precious cinnamon roll slave owners.”

Literally, Doctor Mensah was planning for Murderbot to stay behind and guard everybody else. And Murderbot insists that it has to go along anyways, because uh, security protocols say so.

Because the only good slave according to this whole fucking series and — again, we have 12 published stories in this series and this has never been refuted, and has only been doubled down upon —“The only good slave is one who will risk its life to protect their slave owners. And if they aren't willing to do that then they should be put down like a rabid fucking animal.”

> I could see her notes in the feed. So I knew she meant for me to stay here and watch the habitat and guard everybody who wasn't going. She was taking Pin-Lee because she had past experience in habitat and shelter construction. Rathi who was a biologist

And also, the fact that we get *told* these people are biologists, it never comes up again. It doesn't fucking mean anything. They are all thinner than this fucking receipt paper.

> Rathi who was a biologist and Overse who was a certified field medic.

That also never comes up again. I, I didn't even fucking remember that, because it's literally so unimportant and this is the only time it's ever brought up, and it's never comes up again, because it doesn't fucking matter, because these characters are just, just they're just names.

They don't exist for any purpose besides being named for you to fawn over as the quirky relatable slave owners.

> Mensah hesitated thinking about it and I could tell she was debating protecting the habitat and the group staying behind with the possibility of whatever had hit DeltFallstill being there. She took a breath and I knew she was going to tell

> me to stay here. And I just thought that's a bad idea. I couldn't explain to myself why. It was one of those impulses that comes from my organic parts the governor module is supposed to squash. I said, "As the only one here with experience in these situations, I'm your best resource."

Because yeah, Murderbot was literally about to be told it's going to stay fucking behind, and it's literally arguing that it needs to go along to risk itself to protect them. And this is framed as a good thing, because Martha Wells is racist and doesn't actually care about the concept of slavery or the thought that slaves, you know, deserve basic things like not having to risk their fucking lives to protect the people enslaving them.

> Gurathin said, "What situations?" Rathi gave him a beused look — a bemused look. “This situation, the unknown, strange threats, monsters exploding out of the ground.” I was

> glad I wasn't the only one who thought it was a dumb question.

And it's like, it's, it's not a dumb question at all. I don't know why Rathi is reacting that way.

> Gurathin wasn't as talkative as the others, so I didn't have much of a sense of his personality. He was the only augmented human in the group. So maybe he felt like an outsider or something, even though the others clearly liked him.

(Sarcasm begins)Wow, Martha Wells, almost like physically disabled people are minorities who are oppressed. (Sarcasm ends)

> I clarified “situations where personnel might be injured due to attack by planetary hazards.”

And again, this is all corporate speak but done unironically.

> Arada came in on my side. “I agree. I think you should take SecUnit. You don't know what's out there

Because further dehumanizing the fucking slave by referring to it as slave. That's what SecUnit is. “I, I agree. I think you should take Slave” as though that's its fucking name. Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ.

“But these are good people, guys. They're such nice slave owners. They refer to their slave as Slave.”

SecUnit is the equivalent of meatshield. So they're just calling Murderbot Meatshield. “You should take Meatshield. You don't know what — you don't know, you don't, you, you'll probably need a meatshield out there. You don't know what's out there. You can always use a fucking meatshield. Take Meatshield with you.”

Like Jesus fucking Holy shit.

> Mensah was still undecided. “Depending on what we find, we may be gone as long as two or three days.” Arada waved a hand indicating the habitat. “Nothing's bothered us here so far.” That was probably what DeltFall had thought right before they got eaten or torn to pieces or whatever, but Volescu said, "I admit it would make me feel better about it."

What a strange thing to say out of like — what side is he arguing for? That doesn't make sense. He — That's all he says.

Let me just read the dialogue. Um,

Murderbot says: "Doctor Doctor Mensah, I think I should go along.

Um, uh, yeah. Okay.

Murderbot says, "Doctor Mensah, I think I should go along. As the only one here with experience in these situations, I'm your best resource."

Gurathin said, "What situations?"

Rathi said, "This situation, the unknown, strange threats, monsters exploding out of the ground."

Murderbot says, "Situations where personnel might be injured due to attack by planetary hazards."

Arada says, "I agree. I think you should take Meatshield. You don't know what's out there."

Mensah says, "Depending on what we find, we may be gone as long as 2 or 3 days."

Arada says, "Nothing's bothered us here so far."

Volescu says, "I admit it would make me feel better about it."

Yeah. It's like... and then it's like:

> From medical Bharadwaj tapped into the feed to add her vote for

like that sentence from Volescu that could mean he's on either side. That could mean “I'm staying here, I would like the meatshield to stay here, because it already saved my life one time.”

It's like, it's just ridiculous.

> Bharadwaj from medical — Bharadwaj tapped into the feed to add her vote for me

And it's like, again “vote for me”, that could mean “for me staying here” or “going with”. You're not specifying which one.

> Gurathin was the only one staying behind who didn't say anything. Mensah nodded firmly. “All right then it's decided now. Let's get moving.”

And then they still don't say what was decided. Like it's just...

> So I prepped

That's, and then there's a line break right there.

So, I prepped the big hopper to go to the other side of the planet. In parenthesis (And yes, I had to pull up the instructions.) End parenthesis, I checked over

Oh, we're — Look, we're going to be on chapter 4, and then I'll end this video so I don't give myself a sore throat.

I checked it over as much as I could, remembering how the autopilot had cut

I guess I should check the battery first. Okay, 34%. Yeah,

I checked it over as much as I could, remembering how the autopilot had cut out suddenly in the little hopper, but we hadn't used the big hopper since Mensah had taken it up to check it out when we arrived. (You had to check everything out and log any problems immediately when you took delivery or the company wasn't liable.) End parenthesis. But everything looked okay, or at least matched

> what the specs said it was supposed to match. It was only there for emergencies. And if this thing with DeltFall hadn't happened, we would probably never have touched it until it was time to lift into our pickup transport.

And again, there's there's just genuinely no fucking need for there to be two hoppers. You don't need — and we still we have zero description of what the fuck a hopper looks like. There's no description whatsoever. We don't even know what fucking color it is, what the fucking size range is.

And there don't need to be two of them. It's completely and utterly unfucking necessary.

Just — there's there's just no fucking reason for it. They just need one fucking ship. Especially because until later, when it's completely unnecessary, they're only using one of them at a time.

It may as well just be one fucking ship. It's ridiculous. Especially because we keep getting insisted, “oh, they went uh, security contracts are awarded to the lowest

bidder.” So, it's like, okay, so if this is such a cheap shitty thing they got, why do they — why were they given two ships???? That's not what I call cheap! That's expensive!

So, which the fuck is it? Is it cheap and shitty and they got one ship, or is it expensive and good and they got two of them???

There doesn't need to be two of them. It's just unnecessary and like just completely unnecessary. No fucking reason, especially because we're not getting a description for either of them.

All right. Anyways, uh,

> but everything looked okay, or at least matched what the specs said it was supposed to match. It was only there for emergencies, and if this thing with DeltFall hadn't happened, we probably never would have touched it until it was time to lift into our pickup transport. Mensah came to do her own check of the hopper

Because you just made the slave do all that work and then you're also doing it. So, it's like, why did you make it do that?

> And told me to—
> Mensah came to do her own check of the hopper and told me to pack some extra emergency supplies for the DeltFall staff

Because they're just using Murderbot as a slave. Continuing to fucking use it as a slave, not treating it like a fucking person. Didn't *ask* Murderbot, "Hey, could you do that?" Not even just that level of ~let's pretend to be nice about it.~

Just telling, “pack extra shit, slave.”

Legitimately, this is after they've supposedly “realized it was a person”. After we they pretend lie to our fucking faces and Murderbot’s that they ~just had no idea it was a person~ and they're still treating it like a slave.

Mensah isn't carrying shit out to bring extra supplies. They're not all coming out in a group, and then Murderbot's like, "Oh shit I will get in trouble if I don't do that”, so Murderbot insists on taking it from them to keep up the fucking ruse.

No. Murderbot — Mensah is just fucking telling Murderbot, "Pack some more fucking supplies, slave. Not like any of us could do this.”

They're literally still just enslaving it. They are literally treating it like a fucking slave. And and we're h— we're now halfway through the fucking book because this has eight chapters.

> Mensah came to do her own check of the hopper and told me to pack some extra emergency supplies for the DeltFall staff. I did it and hoped for the human’s sake we would need them. I thought it was likely that the only supplies we would need for DeltFall was the post-mortem kind, but you may have noticed that when I do manage to care, I'm a pessimist. When everything was ready, Overs, Rathi and

> Pin-Lee climbed in, and I stood hopefully by the cargo pod. Mensah pointed at the cabin. I winced behind my opaque face plate and climbed in.

And then we're on chapter 4, but I'm going to end this now because my phone is criminally terrible, and it makes videos like, I'm not even joking, like 40+ gigabytes for no reason. And there's literally no way for me to make it not do that.

So, I have to end this fucking video now, before it literally overrides the entire storage space on this fucking phone. Even though I have all of the camera settings set to the lowest possible, I have to literally run through this video through like three separate compression programs just to get it to a reasonable size.

All right. Anyways, yeah, it's like, I guess I do have a bookmark this time. I got I found a fucking receipt paper because this book is so nice, cuz I don't want to put in a thick bookmark to mess up the spine, but I found a receipt paper.

So, we are currently on...Yeah, we're at — We're going to be on chapter 4, which they are claiming is page 53, which is actually—

Oh well.

Well, yeah, we'll just we'll just say that we're minusing 10 pages. So, we're technically we're actually 43 pages. Too bad we don't know exactly how many more pages could be fitting into these disgusting fucking margins.

We're we're 43 pages into this series if we cut out all the blank extra pages that they lie to us about.

Uh it's August 18th, 2025. I'll probably read it again tonight once my phone is recharged and this video is not on here killing the storage space.

Bye-bye.

04

It's August 23rd.

My wrist is killing me because I was — I crocheted too much stuff and I typed too much stuff. So, camera's dirty. You would think I would notice this before I turn the video on, but apparently not.

(to cat offscreen) I'm sorry, pretty kitty. Am I knocking stuff Overse on top of you?

My wrist hurts. So, I can't type, can't crochet, and I also can't go outside because it's once again thunderstorming. So, all — literally every other activity I could be doing today would make my wrist hurt worse. This shouldn't hurt my wrist hurt worse. To be safe, I'll just be holding the book in this hand or sitting it in my lap.

It's August, what did I say? 23rd? 23rd, 2025.

Can I open the fucking menu phone? Thank you.

This will be the fourth video of me reading the whole entire Murderbot Diaries series.

Uh, we are on book one. We're reading them in publishing order — in case this is the first video any of you are watching for some reason cuz you're not paying attention to the video numbers.

They're all in a playlist, and if you're watching this on YouTube, they're also all in the Internet Archive. If you're —

What the fuck is that? Some sticker residue on the front of the book that wasn't on here before. That because — Oh, because I sat, sat the other book on top of it. That's irritating as fuck. All right, pro tip. Don't put a nice book that doesn't have any sticker residue under a book that has sticker residue.

Um, if you're watching on YouTube, uh, all of the videos will have links to all of the other videos and then a little “you are here” button.

Um, also the third video got marked by YouTube as 18+for some reason, even though none of the other ones have. And it's weird. I guess it's just more of their weirdo censorship. “Uh, let's just violate people's privacy and pretend we're doing it to protect children.”

Also, I have bike grease on my hands. Let me go wash my hands.

All right. Anyways, uh, all the videos will have links to the other videos if you're on YouTube. If you're watching it on the Internet Archive, they're all in one spot, so obviously you don't need an explanation.

We had just gotten to chapter 4, and unlike chapter 1, 2, and 3, chapter 4 doesn't have an entire whole fucking blank page in front of it, despite already having a line break. So, I don't even know what's going on here, because the other chapters have whole entire blank pages, plus — I meant page break. This is a page break where it stops at the end of the page.

Um, the other ones have blank pages to further fill out this absolutely pathetic page count to try and make the book seem longer than it is. Uh, this one doesn't do that. So, they're not even being consistent in the scam, which I think is even more insulting.

Like, if you're going to do that, at least commit to being consistent about it.

Anyways, Chapter 4.

> We flew through the night. The humans taking scans and discussing the new terrain past our assessment range.

Also, no, hold on. I have a fucking question.

What — again, again, I have to point out again, we don't know why the fuck they're here, but also in the grand scheme of things, why is — why does Martha Wells want us to just accept space colonization and terraforming of planets that already have indigenous life forms?

Why are we just supposed to accept that without question as totally fine and morally neutral?

Like, this planet that they're on, Preservation “bought an option” and they're here to decide if they want to buy more. But like. they don't seem to be here to argue against wiping out every indigenous fucking life form by terraforming, which is what would happen.

We know that there's alien animals here. Nobody has done any effort to make sure none of the, the alien animals that they're fucking going to be wiping out, and are absolutely already fucking killing just by introducing all of the germs and shit in their bodies —

Um, nobody's done any work at all to make sure that none of them are people.

Like, if there's an alien planet that has alien life on it, why aren't you — why aren't you doing a million and one things, um, to just see if any of them are people? What? And then we're never supposed to think about this despite explicitly — despite explicitly there being alien life forms.

They get brought up on page one, and then they're never mentioned again. They're not fucking important. We're not supposed to care about them. Not supposed to care about any of the alien animals on any of these planets.

And then also later in the series especially, we're just like supposed to pretend that none of these fucking aliens are alive right now. So that the only aliens that matters, the alien remnants, aka xenomorph goop.

It's just fucking weird. And again, weird. It's just like…space colonization in in a sci-fi setting where we're supposed to believe that regular colonization is bad, and presumably think that driving species extinct is bad. Why aren't we having a conversation about this?

What — also, again, the whole ART’s owners own — there — it's a university that owns an entire solar system or something like that.

And again, that's just presented as completely morally neutral and not like, okay, but do you understand the ramifications of what you're fucking saying?

She does — she doesn't care, though.

Anyways, um, yeah, let me reread that first paragraph, chapter 4.

My god, my wrist hurts.

> We flew through the night, the humans taking scans and discussing the new terrain past our assessment range.

It also — no hold on again I have to interrupt.

Um this is supposedly after the Preservation team “realized” — many, many, many quotes around “realized” — that Murderbot was a person “they immediately started treating it well.”

And it's like, uh, that's ,that so-called “realization” has already happened and we know when we get to the

rest of the series, uh, that's that wasn't a realization. They're just fucking liars.

Uh, they know that robots are people. They know that Murderbot is not a robot.

They think — there's, there's, they're just liars. Martha Wells is so fucking bad at writing, she can't even not make her characters, who are already bad enough by going out of their way to rent out a slave, they're even worse now because they are just lying.

And she is lying to us to try and convince us to be okay with the slave owners and, and think they're just pure in innocent cinamon rolls.

What was I saying? Ow, my wrist hurts.

Uh...

> it was especially interesting for them to see what was there now that we knew our map wasn't exactly reliable.

That's part of the first paragraph.

> Mensah gave everybody watch shifts, including me. This was new, but not unwelcome, as it meant I had blocks of time where I wasn't supposed to be uh paying attention and didn't have to fake it. Mensah, Pin-Lee, and Overse were all taking turns as pilot and co-pilot, so I didn't have to worry so much about the autopilot trying to kill us. And I could go on standby and watch my stored supply of serials.

Like, this whole thing here is what people frame as, “see, they're treating it really well.” But that's not even — that's — no, that's not what's happening here.

That's just everybody getting a shift on lookout, presumably to make everybody, mostly Rathi, and everybody else feel like they're doing something important.

This isn't specifically going out of their way to give Murderbot rest breaks. This is them making Murderbot work part of the time.

That's different from “you get a rest break on purpose explicitly to give you a rest break”. Especially because this whole leading up to this they have not — no, they're just treating it like a slave.

We, we established that in the video before this. If you're watching these out of order uh, well, you, you know what you're getting into. You're watching them out of order. You can deal with the confusion.

> We'd been in the air a while and Mensah was piloting with Pin-Lee in the co-pilot seat when Rathi turned in his seat to face me and said, "We heard...we were given to understand that

Oh boy. Martha Wells, you're so shit at fucking writing and such a fucking raging bigot. Wow.

> Rathi turned in his seat to face me and said, "We heard, we were given to understand that Imitative Human Bot Units

That's all capitalized. Imitative capital I, human capital H, capital B, units capital U.

I am — I — HBU, would would be what that acronym is, but this literally never comes up again because nobody ever fucking calls them this.

So like, legitimately, in-universe, the only thing I have left to conclude from this fucking statement Overse here is that this “Imitative Human Bot Units”, that's a thing Rathi has to have just fucking made up to pretend that — to further the lie that they “just didn't know Murderbot was a person, they don't have robots where they come from, they — how were they supposed to know robots are people and that Murderbot isn't a robot and therefore is a person and it's morally fucking evil of them to treat it like a slave?”

Yeah. This, this Imitative Human Bot Units, this is not mentioned before this and it's not mentioned after this for the whole 12 stories that exist in this series so far.

Literally in-universe, this fucking phrase, this title thing, it doesn't exist outside of this single sentence. So, literally, I am forced to conclude that Rathi just made — they all made this shit up to further convince Murderbot that they, they just didn't know it was a person, uh, it shouldn't be mad at them for enslaving it. They had no clue.

Even though, you know, um, all of the so-called, so called 52 pages before this — it hasn't been 52 pages. It's been 42 pages, but they're fucking lying to us. Um, yeah — Every other scene in this book has happened before now where they continue to treat it as a slave, even after supposedly “realizing” it was a person.

Uh, no. I, I have to assume now that they just made those Imitative Human Bot Units, they just made that up to further the lie that they just didn't know.

Like there's no other possible conclusion. What other possible conclusion am I supposed to make in-universe when this, this Imitative Human Bot Units, that never comes up before now? It wasn't established before now. It doesn't continue being mentioned in the rest of this book and then has never come up *ever again* in the entire rest of the series.

There's literally no other conclusion I can possibly come to. Like, that's that's how this works. If the only time a thing gets said is when the fucking slave owner is saying it to pretend that they had no clue that enslaving people was wrong, the only possible conclusion it's possible to come to within what we fucking establish in the goddamn books is that they just made that shit up right there on the fucking spot.

Let me restart that dumbass thing.

> We'd been in the air a while and when and Mensah was piloting with Pin-Lee in the co-pilot seat when Rathi turned in in his seat to face me and said, "We heard we were given to understand that human imitate that Imitative

> Human Bot Units are ... partially constructed from cloned material."

And again, this is just more Martha Wells lying to the audience because she doesn't want us to realize — despite her then admitting it in interviews and just flat out telling people, "Yes, they're cyborgs."

She doesn't want 90% of 99.99% of the audience to realize that we're talking about cyborgs.

That's why she let them put it's a fucking android and a droid on the back, because she knows that if people understand that Murderbot is a cyborg and so are the rest of the enslaved cyborgs, that the whole entire conversation surrounding this book needs to change completely and utterly.

Also, I feel like the fucking margin has gotten bigger. Maybe it's just...I don't know. Has this — Has this margin at the fucking bottom of the page gotten bigger? Look how disgustingly huge that is. It's ridiculous.

> Rarely, I stopped the show I was watching. I didn't like where this might go. All of that information is in the common knowledge database, plus in the brochure the company provides with the specifics of the types of units they use, which he knew being a scientist and whatever. And it wasn't the kind of h — and he wasn't the kind of human who asked about things he could look up himself through a feed. “That's true.” I said very careful careful to make my voice sound just as neutral as always. Rathi's expression was troubled. “But surely ... it's clear you have feelings.” I flinched. I couldn't help it.

And it's like again, Martha Wells is so racist.

Like, the only way you could have a slave who wants to dehumanize itself is if you're fucking weird about slavery, which is what she is.

> Overse had been working in the feed analyzing data from the assessments. She looked up frowning. “Rathi, what are you doing?”

And again, this is all supposed to be funny and quirky of uh asking the dog, "What do you have in your mouth? What do you have in your mouth?" We're, yeah, it's supposed — We're, we're not — again, there's literally nothing here to take this seriously.

This, This could be a serious actually fucking painful deep conversation about dehumanization and depersonalization and derealization. So many fucking things we could be having a conversation about right now, but we're just going to make it funny and light-hearted.

Rathi shifted guilty.

Also, this is Doctor Rathi. That's his last name.

“I know Mensah asked us not to, but” he waved a hand. “You saw it.”

And again, we're supposed to be acting like these people are treating Murderbot like a person as soon as they realize it's not a robot. As though they didn't know all of this shit from the start.

And also, again, this is this ties in with Martha Wells's hatred of non-binary and other trans people. Uh,

> he waved a hand. “You saw it.”

And, okay, for the fucking record, to preface this, I literally use it/its pronouns. Those are my fucking pronouns. I'm non-binary. My pronouns are it/its pronouns.

Um, anybody who's actually not a fucking slave ra — racist slave owner that we're supposed to think is a good person would not continue calling the slave by it/its pronouns without ever asking, like, that's just dehumanization.

They are dehumanizing Murderbot right now.

And it's specifically dehumanization and not just “respecting Murderbot's pronouns” because they have no fucking clue that Murderbot’s actual chosen pronouns, presumably, but not really —

— It's so much shit.

Martha Wells is such a shit writer and she hates non-binary people.

We're never going to be allowed to have any kind of fucking conversation about this shit without going through the whole goddamn thing.

They are dehumanizing Murderbot right now by continuing to treat it like an object and referring to it as an object with it/its pronouns.

If these people were supposed to be “realizing” Murderbot's a person and treating it like a person, then they wouldn't continue calling it/its pronouns, which is what *they call objects* and how they see it as a fucking object.

Murderbot has never said anything about “call me by it pronouns, those are the ones I like.”

These — This is just what the slave owners have been calling it the whole time to dehumanize it and treat it like an object.

And now they're continuing to do that.

And not one single one among them is like, "Hey, wait. Um, maybe we shouldn't be fucking calling the slave an it. Maybe we should ask the fucking slave what its goddamn pronouns are as the literal bare fucking minimum, bare minimum level of treating it like a person.”

You can't treat someone like a person when they have —

Also, I just noticed how much the yellow of my shirt is reflecting onto the book and my wrist. That's funny.

This isn't treating Murderbot like a person. You're just dehumanizing it. Like they're literally just continuing the dehumanization.

Just because those *happen* to be Murderbot’s pronouns doesn't mean that that's not what these fuckers are doing.

Nobody asked it, ‘Hey, um I realized we've been calling you it like you're a fucking thing this whole time. Um that's that's pretty fucking shitty of us. Is there — what, what pronouns would should we call you? Are there any pronouns you prefer? What do you like? What would you rather we call you?”

And then Murderbot can say, "No, no, no, no. I do not want anything to do with that gender shit, get that the fuck away from me. My pronouns are it/its, those are the ones I like."

We could be having a conversation about that.

Martha Wells is incapable of having that conversation, though, because she hates non-binary people.

Again, I have to stress for the millionth fucking time, the only reason Murderbot is allowed to be non-binary and is allowed to use it/its pronouns is because it doesn't have any genitals. So therefore, Martha Wells thinks, well, it just can't have any gender because that's —

She's she's literally a fucking biological essentialist.

She literally is still equating sex to gender.

Whatever genitals you have in a Martha Wells story is what gender you are.

So, we can't — and she also just hates non-binary people and actual trans people. I can't stress that enough. She hates non-binary and trans people. Non-binary and other trans people because I'm tired of people act — I'm tired of binary trans people acting like the only trans people are binary trans people. Non-binary people are trans too!

So, we could — any, any author that's actually competent and not a raging fucking bigot who bases all of her worldview on biological essentialism of “how you're born dictates how you're allowed to live your life, including who you're allowed to fall in love with and who you're allowed to marry and what gender you're allowed to have” —

A competent author who actually gives a single fuck about any of the minorities that are supposedly represented in this book, we could be having a conversation about —

Let's, let's do a fucking count off, shall we?

We could be talking about dehumanization. We could be talking about gender identity.

We could be talking about reclaiming it/its pronouns as somebody who's repeatedly fucking dehumanized, which is what I'm doing.

You can't grow up autistic in this fucking society and go through your entire childhood being dehumanized and — it's not happening. So those are my pronouns because fuck all of these people. They're mine. They're fun. Those are my pronouns now.

Anyways, we could be talking about that, but we're not going to, because Martha Wells, she doesn't she doesn't think gender identity is a real thing.

It's all, in her mind, just based off of whatever genitals you have.

And that's not just established in this series. In her fantasy series, she literally had the protagonist check what genitals people had before he decided what pronouns he was going to fucking call them. Instead of simply asking a single person, he's literally checking people's genitals to determine what pronouns he's going to fucking use for them. I'm not even joking.

Anyways, um where was it? Yeah. Uh, yeah, I just — they're, they're just dehumanizing Murderbot.

That's what they're doing right now by calling Murderbot its pronouns. Calling it an it. They're dehumanizing it because they are still treating it like a fucking slave. if they weren't treating it like a slave —

We in-universe, out of universe, we know that the reason they don't ask Murderbot's pronouns is because Martha Wells hates us.

Genuinely, she fucking hates us. She doesn't want us to exist. We make things too complicated for her because she worships the gender binary and worships the fucking the white western gender binary in fucking particular.

Uh, that's the out of universe reason that these characters aren't simply asking Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are.

But in-universe, none of that matters. We don't — we shouldn't have in-universe —

This is what death of the author means!

Death of the author doesn't mean, “oh, J — Miku wrote Harry Potter, so, uh, it wasn't JK Rowling who wrote all this bigoted shit, it was Miku. Uh, so that means I get to ignore all of the bigotry that's in the books and just pretend it's fine because I'm claiming the Vocaloid singer actually wrote it.”

As though the only problem with the Harry Potter books is that a bad person's name is on the cover and

not that the bad person whose name is on the cover put bad shit in the fucking books.

So, in-universe, they are still treating Murderbot like a slave.

They are continuing to dehumanize it.

Like imagine for just five fucking seconds right now, if Murderbot didn't use it/its pronouns!

If it/its pronouns were only ever a source of fucking violence and dehumanization toward it, which is what's happening in the story, but because Martha Wells is too much of a bigot to have any kind of conversation about this shit.

So imagine Murderbot used she/her pronouns and then these slave owners are just here literally referring to, in this case, her as an it the whole time.

Do you understand now why this is like fucking evil shit?

Like, yes, Murderbot does use it/its pronouns. And no, this is not an excuse for any of you to misgender it.

I know this is hard to wrap your binary, probably cis brains around, but real people use it/its pronouns.

Like me, real fucking people use these pronouns.

Just because Martha Wells wrote this book in the most bigoted fucking way possible doesn't mean you get to misgender Murderbot and decide it has to have other pronouns.

Because any excuse you use to misgender Murderbot and make Murderbot stop using its pronouns is the shit people say to me, a real fucking person.

What you *should* be doing instead is actually fucking having meaningful conversations about dehumanization, fucking reclaiming parts of this shit.

We could — all of this shit —

Literally all of this shit, you have to have meaningful conversations about it instead of just say, "Okay, um, well, I'll just have Murderbot use different pronouns. That's totally progressive, right?"

And it's like, no, it's not, because people like me literally exist. Making Murderbot stop using it/its pronouns doesn't fix anything in here.

Having meaningful conversations about it, its pronouns and dehumanization and reclaiming shit would it — wouldn't fix what's already in the book, but it can fix the fandom's fucking ideas of how all of this shit works and so much, so much.

Like, yeah, this is Murderbot’s fucking slave owners, continuing to dehumanize it, continuing to treat it as a slave.

All of the things that — all of the conversation that I'm about to read again, it's all just like the definition of performative outrage and performative allyship.

They're still slave owners.

They're still treating Murderbot like a slave, but now they're pretending to Murderbot, and to us, more importantly, out of universe, to us, the audience, this is Marth Martha Wells trying to convince us that they're not really slave owners, cuz uh, they think slavery is bad.

All right, that doesn't change the fact that they are slave owners owning a slave right fucking now, that they went solar systems out of their way to get and use as a meatshield.

Also, I, I'm not watching the fucking TV show, but I have heard from people who went from watching the TV show to reading the books that in the TV show, these motherfuckers actually immediately told Murderbot, "We think slavery is wrong. You can do literally whatever the fuck you want while we're here."

I don't, I don't know anything else past that, but apparently they actually did the bare minimum of people who supposedly think slavery is wrong, where they literally actually told the slave, "You can do

literally whatever you want. We're not going to treat you like a slave. You are our equal.”

That happened in the fucking TV show, apparently. Maybe I'm wrong. I just heard it secondhand.

But uh, well, yeah, secondhand from multiple people who've, who've gone from that, to this, where they literally just treat it like a slave and then we're still supposed to like them, and pointing out “uh this is very House Elf coded” and in the most derogatory way possible, because it's like, “so we go from the TV show where Murderbot is actually confident and knows what it's doing and, and hates humans, honestly” which, thank fuck, Martha Wells really wants to pretend that it does in this and it doesn't.

It worships their fucking feet — the feet their ground — the ground their feet walk on. Whatever the I just fucked up that phrase. I don't give a shit.

Murderbot worships slave owners in this story, but we just keep getting told, "Oh, it hates humans." No, it doesn't. You're a fucking liar and a racist liar.

But in the TV show, it apparently does genuinely resent humans and actually like gets to talk back and shit or something. I don't know. I haven't watched it. I'm not fucking going to.

Uh yeah. Anyways, this is this whole conversation that's about to follow. This is just window dressing… No, there's a phrase I'm looking for. This is like...I don't know.

It's, it's just it's just purely performative.

But people love to to quote from this tiny shitty conversation that doesn't even take up half the page. I don't think — maybe it, it wouldn't take up half the page if this margin were here.

Uh, this, this conversation right here that ends without anything happening. Um this is what people love to quote to pretend that “see? the PreservationAux team aren't slave owners. They said slavery's bad.”

He w — uh — Rathi shifted guilty. I know Mensah asked us not to but he waved a hand. You saw it,

dehumanizing murderbot.

Overse pulled her interface off. You're upsetting it, she said, teeth gritted.

Another dehumanization, but we're going to pretend that's not what's going on.

That's my point, he gestured in frustration. The practice is disgusting. It's horrible. It's slavery. This is no more a machine than Gurathin is. Exasperated, Overse said. And you don't think it knows that again.

They've literally just dehumanized Murderbot three fucking times in this conversation and they're talking about it not only like an object, but like it's not even fucking there.

Again, again, again, I have to stress again, I literally use it/its pronouns. I was fucking using these pronouns before I found this series. I thought it was fucking hilarious.

But this is not how you respect people who use it/its pronouns. This is just dehumanization. Dehumanization, racist and ableist dehumanization, explicitly in-universe done to justify enslaving these people and pretending that it's progressive.

Again, in order for this to be progressive about people who use it/its pronouns, we would have to actually have conversations about so many fucking things that Martha Wells is incompetent to have conversations about because she hates us too much.

She hates she hates anybody who's not white or she wouldn't be shilling for Apple and telling poor people to pay them their fucking grocery money to reward them for whitewashing her own protagonist.

She fucking hates physically disabled people and she hates non-binary and trans people. She hates everybody that Murderbot is supposed to represent.

So, we're not going to ever have a conversation in this series about any of this shit.

The slave owners are dehumanizing Murderbot by calling it an it. Just because Murderbot does actually use those pronouns doesn't mean that's not what they're doing, because they don't know that! They are just continuing the dehumanization that they started when they rented Murderbot out. They are continuing the dehumanization that the people who enslaved Murderbot in the first place started.

It's it's just dehumanization. That's what it is.

That's why so many people finish reading this book where Murderbot never gets to fucking tell a single person, or even think to itself about what its pronouns are, and everybody's like, "Okay, well, I can't call it it, can I? Because they're just dehumanizing them." Usually, they go with he because they think female

characters can't be funny or sarcastic. Sometimes they'll go with she and then sometimes to be quote unquote progressive they'll go with they even. It's like no.

Yeah. It's it's terribly fucking written.

Yeah. So, three counts of “let's actively dehumanize Murderbot by referring to it as an it despite this supposedly being where they treat it like a person.”

You know, if they were really treating Murderbot like a person, they would ask it, "What are your pronouns? What what pronouns would you rather we refer to you as with?"

They haven't even asked Murderbot what its fucking name are.

Just a few pages ago in, chapter 3, wasn't it? Uh, that was the first time we hear one of them refer to Murderbot as SecUnit, as though that's its fucking — Yeah, there it is. Uh, page 51, aka 41.

> Arada said, "I agree. I think you should take SecUnit. You don't know what's go what's going on out there

Because just that's just more dehumanization. That's like pointing — that's literally saying you should take Slave as though slave is its fucking name. “You should take Meatshield.”

It's, it's shit writing. It's racist.

It's, again, not taking slavery seriously.

It's all just terrible fucking writing and just dehumanization. Again, I can't stress that enough.

> “That's my point.” He gestured in frustration. “The practice is disgusting. It's horrible. It's slavery. This is no more a machine than Gurathin is.”

And it's like, yeah, you guys know, even if it were more of a machine than Gurathin, you're supposed to

believe that robots are people and deserve to be treated like equals.

The whole entire point of this series is supposed to be that “robots are people too.” So, where does that fucking go?

Because all of these people keep saying shit like “less sentient than a hauler bot” or “this is no more a machine than Gurathin is”.

So, if it were an actual android or droid, you would think it doesn't deserve fucking rights.

Like legitimately, this is this is what being a shit fucking racist writer leads you to.

And again, Rathi is just saying this.

> “It's disgusting. It's horrible. It's slavery.”

But you guys are the slave owners. You've been treating Murderbot like a slave this whole time. You're still actively treating it like a slave and

dehumanizing it. Not one single one of these motherfuckers has still thanked Murderbot for risking its life to save two of their fucking friends.

They haven't asked it what its fucking name is.

They haven't asked it for its fucking pronouns.

They're still not giving it actual breaks for itself.

They're just putting it on a fucking work roster with everybody else. That's not the same fucking thing. They're — there's — they're still treating it like a fucking slave. They're still dehumanizing it. They are still treating it not like a fucking person. This is fucking ridiculous.

> Exasperated, Overse said, "And you don't think it knows that?"

And it's just like Jesus Christ. It's ridiculous. Martha Wells is so fucking racist.

> I'm supposed to let the clients do and say whatever they want to me. And with an intact governor module, I wouldn't have a choice. I'm also not supposed to snitch on clients to anybody except the company. But it was either that or jump out the hatch.

Also, hold on. No, “I'm not supposed to snitch on clients to anybody except the company.” That just can't be true.

That's not — That's not how this works, because you're supposed to be programmed to follow orders of the person in charge.

And saying I — that doesn't — that just genuinely doesn't make any fucking sense because if some — if two some of the clients are fucking planning a mutiny, you would be required to tell the person — aka snitching on them —

Or, unless Martha Wells is going to do that thing where she pretends graffiti isn't graffiti if it's pretty and pretend that snitching on people isn't snitching if

it's snitching like — that's just a nonsensical statement.

And it's just again very bad writing because saying shit like that, especially in a book as short as this, doesn't even fill out a centimeter when you and your fucking shitty publisher have done everything possible to stretch it out as much as possible? That matters.

Saying “I'm not supposed to snitch on clients to anybody except the company” You're trying to establish the world and you're just making shit up that doesn't even make sense.

> I sent the conversation into the feed tagged for Mensah. From the cockpit, she shouted, "Rathi, we talked about this."

And again, it's supposed to be funny. It's, "Haha, I told mom on you” because we're just treating Mensah as the mom of the group because misogyny and racism.

She's the only Black woman in the group that we know of, because literally no other character has a fucking desri — description of any level at all.

So again, it's it's misogynoir of mom-ifying Black women and saying “now she has, she has the only brain cell in the group. She's everybody's mom.” So she's literally yelling at Rathi like he's a literal literal fucking child.

And again, this is all supposed to be funny. And so is this part.

> I slid out of the seat and went to the back of the hopper as far away as I could get, facing the supply lockers and the head. It was a mistake. It wasn't a normal thing for a SecUnit with an intact governor module to do, but they didn't notice.

And again, Murderbot’s just facing into a wall, and it's supposed to be funny, because I'll give you all a fucking a tip here: If this weren't supposed to be funny, if this weren't supposed to be light-hearted, we

would be going into detail about Murderbot's fucking emotions right now, we would get like two fucking pages at the very least of just describing what Murderbot is feeling so that we can take it seriously, but we're not supposed to take it seriously.

> “I'll apologize,” Rathi was saying. “No, just leave it alone,” Mensah told him

Again, more dehumanization. More dehumanization.

> “That would just make it worse.” Overse added.

And again, all of this is just dehumanization. — I just saw my marker. Where the fuck did it go? I have my computer turned off and I don't have to turn it back on just to open my notepad.

But yeah, literally everybody, all of the slave owners here are just continuing to dehumanize Murderbot and saying that no, you shouldn't apologize to a slave when you upset them, because that would make it worse. It's like, that's not how apologies work.

He should in fact be apologizing.

That's just basic fucking shit. They're they're all just encouraging more dehumanization. “Continue to treat the slave like a slave. Don't apologize when you upset it.”

Um also again, it's all just supposed to be a joke, because this is supposed to be Rathi being “oh haha so funny, so clueless.” It's just — it's just ridiculous.

> I stood there until they all calmed down and got quiet again, then slid into a seat in the back and resumed the serial I'd been watching.

And again, nothing actually going on there to let us take that scene seriously.

> It was in the middle of the night when I felt the feed drop out. I hadn't been using it, but I had felt the SecSystem feeds from the drones and the interior cameras back burnered and was accessing them.

There's a little line break here if I didn't fucking mention that line break. So, there's a new scene. Uh,

> and was accessing them occasionally to make sure everything was okay. The humans left behind in the habitat were more active than they usually were at this time, probably anxious about what we were going to find at DeltFall. I was hearing Arada walk around occasionally, though Volescu was snoring off and on in his bunk. Bharadwaj had been able to move back into her own quarters, but was restless and going Overse her field notes through the feed. Gurathin was in the hub doing something on his personal system. I wondered what he was doing and had just started to carefully poke around through a HubSystem to find out. When the feed dropped, it was like someone slapped the organic part of my brain.

And again, using purposefully weird metaphors and shit and just to make it all seem funny

I sat up and said, "The satellite went down." The others, except for Pin-Lee, who was piloting, all grabbed for their interfaces. I saw their expressions when they felt the silence. Mensah pushed

(at the book) Stop moving, pages.

Mensah pushed out of her seat and came to the back. “Are you sure it was the satellite?” “I'm sure,” I told her. “I'm pinging it and there's no response.” We still had our local feed running on the Hopper system, so we could communicate through it as well as the comm and share data with each other. We just didn't have nearly as much data as we'd have — as we'd have had if we still were still attached to HubSystem. We were far enough away that we needed this comm satellite as a relay. Rathi switched his — Rathi switched his interface to the hopper’s feed and started checking the scans. There was nothing on them except empty sky. I had — I had them back burnered, but I'd

> set them to notify me if they encountered anything like an energy reading or a large life sign. He said, "I just felt a chill. Did anyone else feel a chill a little?" Overse admitted, "It's a weird coincidence, isn't it?"

And again, them saying this is supposed to be funny and quirky and relatable.

> "The damn satellites had periodic outages since we got here," Pin-Lee pointed out from the cockpit. “We just don't normally need it for comms.” She was right. I was supposed to check their personal logs periodically in case they were plotting to defraud the company or murder each other or something.

Even though we just fucking said, like two pages ago, that Murderbot’s not supposed to snitch on them to anybody except the company. But why would — So why would it have to keep track of whether or not they're planning to murder each other if not to snitch on that to the fucking person in charge, huh? Can you

keep shit consistent for not even even five pages? The answer is no!

> And the last time I looked at Pin-Lee, she had been tracking the satellite problems, trying to figure out if there was a pattern. It was one of the many things I didn't care about because the entertainment feed was only updated occasionally, and I downloaded it for local storage. Rathi shook his head. “But this is the first time we've been far enough far enough from the habitat to need it for comm contact. It just seems odd and not in a good way.”

He just repeated the same thing she just fucking said. She — the — like the second sentence she said was, "We just don't — it, it does this all the time. We just don't normally need it for comms." And then he repeats, "But this is the first time we've needed it for comms." And it's like, "Yeah, yeah."

> Mensah looked around at them. “Does anyone want to turn back?” I did, but I didn't get a vote

Because they're still treating it like a fucking slave even though all the rest of the fandom will be trying to convince you that this is “they're treating it like a person, they treat it — started treating it like a person as soon as they found out it was a person!!”

And they're they're referring to the first the very start of the fucking book where it risked its life and almost died protecting two of them.

Uh yeah, they literally are not treating it like a fucking person, and they're still treating it like a slave. That's why Murderbot doesn't get a fucking vote.

> The others sat there for a quiet moment. Then Overse said

Also, Murderbot does get a fucking vote. It could literally say some fucking shit about security protocol. Say “we have to turn around."

It could do that, but um, it's not going to do that, because Martha Wells doesn't actually want Murderbot to not want to die.

We're just supposed to want Murderbot to keep murdering other slaves.

That's, I guess that's spoilers for you if you're, uh coming into this without any context. Whatever.

> Overse said, "If it turns out the DeltFall group did need help and we didn't go, how would we feel?" “If there's a chance we can save lives, we have to take it." Pin-Lee agreed. Rathi sighed. “No, you're right. I'd feel terrible if anyone died because we were overcautious.” “We're agreed then,” Mensah said. “We'll keep going

Because again, Murderbot was correct. They're not giving it a vote.

It doesn't get a vote because they're not treating it like a fucking person. They are treating it like a

fucking slave, even though it's already almost died to save two of their lives.

And then they immediately put it back to work before it's even fully healed, because it was only at 80%, not 100%. And then, and then still treating it like a slave. Every moment up until now.

> I would have preferred they be overcautious. I had

You could m — again, No, it's fucking — It's a lie.

If Murderbot actually wanted them to not be taking stupid risks, it could literally just say uh “client security protocol says that we have to turn around because we have no comms contact.” It could say that, it doesn't have to be true.

Murderbot is in fact capable of lying to people because it's doing that this whole time by pretending its governor module isn't hacked.

Which is the literally the only things the only thing ever that makes these people finally start treating Murderbot like a person, is when they realize it's not actually controlled by the governor module.

They are literally continuing to treat it like a slave because right now they think they can get away with it, *and they are getting away with it* because we're supposed to like them.

The only time they finally start treating Murderbot like a person is after they find out that it can, in fact, kill them if it fucking wants to, which it doesn't, because Martha Wells is racist and is writing a slavery apologism series.

Again, that's literally what happens.

We're told, "Oh, they just didn't realize it was a person until it took its fucking helmet off to talk to somebody in the — Volescu in the crater."

As though they've never seen it without its helmet on. It's just so much bullshit. It's, it's all bullshit.

None of it makes sense when you actually think about it.

> I had 4 hours to my next scheduled watched, so I went into standby and buried myself in the downloads I'd stored away.

And again, it's just lazy, shallow, shitty writing that we never get to actually learn anything meaningful about any of the downloads that Murderbot is watching.

Also, Martha Wells is like, "Piracy's bad. You shouldn't do it.” Your fucking protagonist is pirating everything. You are shilling for Apple TV. You can shut the fuck up.

There's another little line break.

> It was dawn when we got there. DeltFall had established their camp in a wide valley surrounded by high mountains. A spiderweb of creek beds cut through the grass and stubby trees. There they were a bigger operation than ours with three linked habitats and a shelter for

> surface vehicles, plus a landing area for two large hoppers, a cargo hauler, and three small hoppers. It was all company equipment though, per contract, and all subject to the same malfunctions as the crap they dumped on us. There was no one outside, no movement, no no sign of damage, no sign any hostile fauna had approached. The satellite was still dead, but Mensah had been trying to get the DeltFall habitat on the comes on the come since we had come within range.

Mhm.

> “Are they missing any transports?” Mensah asked. Rathi checked the record of what they were supposed to have, which I'd copied from HubSystem before we left. “No, the hoppers are all there. The ground vehicles are in the shelter, I think.” I moved up

Also, I got to say before I fucking forget it — No, I will not bother.

This just doesn't make sense.

None of the — none of the villain — actions of the villains in this story actually fucking make any sense at all when you actually start to think about the story and think, “what should the villains be doing in this situation and what would they be doing if this were well written and characters actually get to have motivations of their own besides ‘just do whatever the plot requires to let the heroes win.’”

Well, I'll, I'll get into that more when we fucking get there.

> I had moved up to the front as we got closer. Standing behind the pilot seat, I said, "Doctor Mensah,"

Because again, they only get referred to as doctor in dialogue, which is just bad writing because it's completely inconsistent for no fucking reason.

> “I recommend you land outside their perimeter.” Through the local feed, I sent her

> all the info I had, which was what their automated systems were responding to the pings the hopper was sending, but that was it. We weren't picking up their feed, which meant their HubSystem was in standby. There was nothing from their three SecUnits, not even pings.

Also, it's more bad writing that we never get a fucking explanation for what a ping is. In this super sci-fi future, a ping has to have some kind of fucking definition, but we never get it. It's just whatever the fuck. No explanation ever, because bad writing.

It's gen — It's genuinely just bad writing. A lot of fucking people are just falling for a whole bunch of anti-intellectual shit and saying that uh “exposition is bad because it's holding your hand.” No, you useless motherfuckers!

Exposition is a basic storytelling element that has existed since the history of fucking humans, since anybody started telling fucking stories.

It exists for a fucking reason, and it's because it's *a basic element of good storytelling*.

You refusing to do exposition doesn't make you clever. It, it's makes you a bad fucking writer. You're not writing fanfiction when you're selling books to people that's marketed as original fiction.

You do have to in fact explain this shit. I should get a fucking explanation for what a ping is. Just because you are a shit fucking coward who only reads fanfiction and then the Murderbot Diaries, which is also just written exactly like fanfiction, doesn't mean that's how this works.

What the fuck is a ping? Somebody fucking explain to me what the fuck a ping is in this setting. What does it mean? What does it do? We don't fucking know, because Martha Wells is shit at writing and refuses to do any actual world building, including basic exposition.

> Overse in the co-pilot seat glanced up at me. “Why?”

So, I'll just read this dialogue because the dialogue in this book is shit.

> I said, "Doctor Mensah, I recommend you land outside their perimeter."

And then a Overse is like,

> "Why?"

Uh,

> I had to answer the question. So, I said “Security protocol.” which sounded good and didn't commit me to anything.

Like, Murderbot, you could — Martha Wells specifically, you could have just said that.

That could literally have been a reason why Murderbot argued that they turned the fuck around. But no, but no. No.

And again, we're supposed to — all of this whole shit that was going on, Overse here saying, "No, we would feel so bad if they got hurt because we turned around." It's trying to convince us, “See, they're good people. They care about people. They care about other humans. The people that they consider to be humans.”

They don't give a shit about Murderbot, a person they don't consider to be human, because they're dehumanizing it as a fucking slave.

They don't even care about the other people's slaves, and the story doesn't want *us* to either, because that's why they're going to be framed as rabid fucking animals.

> No one outside, no one answering the comm. Unless they had all jumped in their surface vehicles and gone off on vacation, leaving their hub and SecUnits shut down, they were dead. Pessimism confirmed.

And that's supposed to be a joke again.

> But we couldn't be sure without looking. The hopper scanners can't see inside habit — inside the habitats because of the shielding that's really only there to protect

uh I flipped too soon.

> proprietary data, so we couldn't get any life signs or energy readings. This is why I didn't want to come. I've got four perfectly good humans here and I didn't want them to get killed by whatever took out DeltFall. It's not like I cared about them personally, but it would look pretty bad on my record. And my record was already pretty terrible.

And again, this is Martha Wells trying to pretend that Murderbot um hates humans even though it worships the fucking ground —

No, I should specify slave owners, because human in this setting means slave owner. The people who are acknowledged to be human, they're all fucking slave owners. Literally. Uh, Murderbot's like, "Oh, I don't I

don't care about them personally. It would just look bad on my record."

And it's like, okay, Martha Wells, why do you think a slave would care about whether their record looks good when having a bad record isn't going to do anything to Murderbot? It's not going to be punished for it.

“Uh, it's not like I cared about them personally. It would just look bad.”

And it's like, again, Martha Wells downplaying what slavery is and expecting us to worship the slave owners and want Murderbot to admit that it really does love these these ~awesome adorable slave owners~.

“We're just being cautious,” Mensah said,

answering Overse after how much of non dialogue again. The, the dialogue is so spaced out between other shit that it's like impossible to actually follow the conversation.

So it goes, Murderbot saying, "Doctor Mensah, I recommend you land outside their perimeter."

Overse said, "Why?"

Mensah finally fucking answered her and said, "We're just being cautious."

Nothing else. Nothing else. That's the conversation.

> I gave Mensah a few hints through the feed. That they should break out the hand weapons in the survival gear, that Rathi should stay behind inside the hopper with the hatch sealed and locked since he'd never done the weapons training course. And that most important, I should go first.

And again, we're we're leaving Rathi behind because we're just treating him like a comic relief buffoon who's incompetent because he's a brown man.

And then then it's supposed to pretend to be feminist by saying that the brown man is incompetent. So that

means it's — Martha Wells thinks that pretending that racism is really feminism is a good thing. And it's like, no, you're just doing racism.

Uh...

> they were quiet, subdued. Up until now, I think they had all been looking at this as probably a natural disaster that they were going to be digging survivors out of a collapsed habitat or helping fight off a herd of Hostile Ones. This was something else. Mensah gave the orders and we started forward. Me in front, the humans a few steps behind. They were in their full suits with helmets which gave some protection but it had been meant for environmental hazards not some other heavily armed human (or angry malfunctioning rogue SecUnits)

That's in parenthesis.

> deliberately trying to kill them. I was more nervous than Rathi who was jittery on our

> comms monitoring the scans and basically telling us to be careful every other step

Because again it's supposed to be funny. It's supposed to be funny. We can't actually take this seriously.

> I had my built-in energy weapons and the big project projectile weapon I was cradling. I also had six drones pulled from the hopper supply and under my control through its feed. They were the small kind barely a centimeter across. No weapons, just cameras. They make some which aren't much bigger and have a small pulse weapon, but you have to get one of the upper tier company packages mostly designed for much larger contracts. I told the drones to get in the air and gave them a scouting pattern. I did that because it seemed sensible, not because I knew what I was doing.

Because Martha Wells loves trying to pretend that Murderbot just doesn't know what it's doing. “It's really bad at its job. It's not per — It's not a Mary Sue. Trust me, it's not. Oh, it's really bad at its job.”

And then just has it do all kinds of shit that never fails because she wants to pretend that Murderbot is an underdog, and therefore we should cheer for it, but then she never actually wants Murderbot to really lose a fight in a meaningful way.

So Murderbot doesn't ever actually fuck anything up because of its own bad choices because it genuinely “doesn't know what it's doing”.

It knows what it's doing.

She just lies and pretends it doesn't to pretend that it's a fucking underdog and not completely overpowered.

> I am not a combat murderbot. I am security.

Again, I have to say, any editor worth any money at all, let alone a supposedly professional editor with a professional editing publishing company, should have chopped out every redundancy in this fucking book.

There are so many completely useless, redundant fucking bullshit that shouldn't exist.

We don't need combat bots, combat units, combat murderbots. Just shut the fuck up! No!

And you're about to see it's going to get worse. We're going to be at the part, there's a scene that we're about to get to pretty soon that's exists purely for the sake of letting Martha Wells write a scene where the slave tries to kill itself heroically to protect its slave owners.

Not presented as a horrifying thing, it’s presented as, "Yeah, what a good slave killing itself to protect its slave owners. How beautiful. What a good person." That's legitimately what it is.

And it's — This is the start of the ridiculous fucking redundancies.

> I'm not a combat murderbot. I'm security.

That's why Murderbot wins every single fight it ever gets into. Unless the plot — Unless literally the plot says, "Okay, but it’s got to kind of lose this one."

Like, it's just lies. It's lies. “I'm not — I'm not trained for combat. That's why I beat everybody. Trust me.”

That's — yeah, it's it's again just trying to lie to you to pretend that Murderbot is an underdog, because, pretending that it's an underdog, therefore, you want to cheer for it.

Therefore, you'll ignore all of the horrific things that it does and the fact that it never actually loses a fight in a meaningful way.

> I keep things from attacking the clients and try to gently discourage the clients from attacking each other. I was way out of my depth here, which was another reason I didn't want the humans to come here.

Except, Murderbot, if Martha Wells keeps —

Yeah, Martha Wells keeps trying to convince us that Murderbot doesn't want anybody doing this cuz it's too dangerous. But then she didn't just have Murderbot even try to claim, “hey, security protocols say we got to go back or your warranty on this ship and also me will expire” and then it could just say anything it wants.

It is — it can — it's been lying to these people the whole time. It can it can lie for a good fucking reason.

Like it could at least — it could have even fucking hacked —

Look, look, Okay? Murderbot could have said, "Hey, security protocols demand that we turn the fuck around." And then they could have been like, "Well, we don't care about that." It could have hacked the fucking computer, the, the the helicopter that they're in.

And said, "Oh, uh, yeah, the security protocol just engaged itself automatically. Sorry, it's going to turn

itself around now. The autopilot's taken over. Nothing I can do about it.”

We could have done that, but no, because Martha Wells wants them to go here specifically.

The only purpose to any of this shit going on right now is so that she can write the scene where the slave tries to ~heroically, beautifully~ kill itself to protect its slave owners.

I'm not even joking. That's the point of all of this fucking side quest.

So she can write the scene that she's been wanting to write the whole time, where the slave tries to kill itself to protect its slave owners. Not even joking.

> We crossed the shallow —
> Yeah, I was way out of my depth here, which was another reason I hadn't wanted the humans to come here

And like, you didn't put up any argument, even though you are capable of putting up an argument and framing it as “blame this on the company. The company makes these rules. I don't, I don't make the rules. I just have to follow them.”

So, literally anything like that.

No, because uh the plot, and by the plot I mean the scene she's wanted to write the whole time where the slave heroically tries to kill itself to protect its slave owners, so she can live out her fantasy of being such a nice slave owner that her slaves would try to kill themselves protect her — That's what's going on here. That's the premise of this whole fucking book.

> We crossed the shallow streams

As though we'd established *clearly* at any point that there were streams here,

> sending a group of water invertebrates
> scattering away from our boots.

Look how many fucking indigenous life forms are on this fucking planet!

There's little water invertebrates and, and we're just supposed to pretend that it's completely morally neutral for the PreservationAux team to even be here doing shit, planning to colonize the fucking planet, even though they're supposed to be the good guys who are supposed to think colonization is bad.

But not really, because it'll be good when they do it.

> The trees were short and sparse enough that I had a good view of the camp from this angle. I couldn't detect any DeltFall.

What do you mean this angle? What angle are you at? We have — we — You'll notice the complete lack of descriptions of the scene that they're in.

Like, “oh, we crossed some shallow streams and there's short sparse trees.” That doesn't actually tell us anything about where you're standing. Are you up on a fucking hill above their thing? Are you looking

down into it? We don't fucking know because it's badly fucking written.

> I couldn't detect any DeltFall security drones by eye or with the scanners on my drones.

That's just redundant using drones where both in that sentence that could have been done better.

> Rathi in the hopper wasn't picking up anything either. I really really wished I could pinpoint the location of those three SecUnits, but I wasn't getting anything from them.

Okay, before we continue, that line was the end of a paragraph.

We're on page 62, aka 52, because there's 10 blank pages between the and nonstory pages between what is actually page 1 and what they're claiming is page 9. We're on page, according to these fuckers, 62. It's actually 52.

We're 52 pages into the series.

Okay, if we just stopped this whole rest of this book and threw it in the fucking garbage, and left off and then built forward from this last line here: “I really, really wished I could pinpoint the location of those three SecUnits but I wasn't getting anything from them.”

I'm actually going to really stop this video right here and just talk.

Um, this is the perfect spot. If we just stopped the — just throw — take everything after that line and throw it in the fucking garbage, this could still be salvageable, because Murderbot — we could be taking “Murderbot really really wants to figure out where the other slaves are” —

And say —

I shouldn't even have to explain this.

I swear to fucking God, this shouldn't have to be a thing that I have to say like this.

If you are, if you are reading these, if you're watching this video before you watch any of the other videos in this series, all linked in the fucking description if you're on YouTube, it's also a playlist. And if you're on the Internet Archive, they're all there. I don't know why you would be watching them out of order. Maybe you clicked on one and didn't notice or something.

If you are coming into the series without any fucking context and have managed to ignore everything else I've said about spoilers for the series, I hate to be the one to fucking tell you this, 52 pages into the fucking story, but this line of “the slave really wishes it could figure out where the other slaves are”, it's not saying that out of concern for their safety.

It's not saying that because it wants to make sure they're okay.

It's not saying that because it wants to find out what happened to them, because it cares about them.

It's saying that because this author, Martha Wells, is a white supremacist who fucking loves slavery and loves dehumanizing fucking —

Oh my Jesus Christ —

I'm actually just gonna have to stop the video because I'm so fucking pissed off about this, because Murderbot is saying, "I wish I knew where the other slaves were." Because Martha Wells is a racist fucking sack of shit who wants to do slavery apologism and pretend that —

You know, no, I'm, I'm pissed.

I'm — I'm done.

Goodbye.

05

August 24th. We're going to continue reading this bullshit here.

Also, just for the record, um, PlatformDecay, the price has been announced and, uh, my twin said to get System Collapse out for a demonstration of like — that's barely — System Collapse, book seven, is barely bigger than book one.

And Sys — uh, PlatformDecay, supposed to be around the same number of pages as this this shit right here. This is 241. I'm not scrolling through that right now to see how much they're lying about that, but they're planning to charge 25 fucking dollars for uh, PlatformDecay.

Let me turn the fan…

They're planning to charge $25 for PlatformDecay. And also, for anybody who doesn't know, PlatformDecay, Martha Wells picked that because she's a corporate sellout.

PlatformDecay is another an alternative term for enshittification. If you don't know what enshittification is, look it up. You probably know what it means, um, you just didn't know there was a word for it.

So, Martha Wells is naming her book that. So if you are going to talk about PlatformDecay when it comes out, do everybody who actually cares about the death of the internet due to corporate greed a favor and spell the book title as one fucking word.

PlatformDecay. One word instead of two.

Because any social media thing that's talking about platform decay is talking about the fucking encroaching death of the internet via corporate greed, also known as platform decay, also known as enshittification.

And now Martha Wells, who is literally shilling for fucking Apple right now and has sold out to Apple, named her fucking book that, which means it's now going to be that much more difficult for people in the

future to talk about platform decay the fucking concept, because their tags will get flooded with whatever shit happens in the... 12th? 13th? I think it's the 12th Murderbot book. Maybe it's the 13th. I just need to write the list down. My laptop's asleep.

Anyways, we're going to fucking do this. Also, I can't tell if my face is red. I might have gotten sunburned. Probably got sunburned because I have yet to find a single thing of sunscreen lotion that I can put on my face without it making my eyes boil. Not literally, but that's what it fucking feels like.

Anyways, we were on page 62. Like do I — the only one? One side of my face is sunburned. The other is not. Uh, doesn't hurt. Just looks really red.

Yeah, we had just read the sentence. Uh,

> I really really wished I could pinpoint the location of those three SecUnits, but I wasn't getting anything from them

Because I had to stop, because it's just like, there's there's no part of this book and, and this whole series at this point, that's not just doing slavery apologism.

Any other book where we have the —

[poking at face] It's kind of tingling. I don't know what's going on with my face.

Any other book series where we got the sentence from the basic concept of a slave says, "I really wish I knew where the other slaves were." This wouldn't be what's going on in here.

[pauses video]

Okay, I'm back. Washed my face. It's still red. I don't know what's going on, but it's not like I'm overheating or anything.

Anyways, we had read the sentence on the page before where Murderbot’s like “I really really wished I could pinpoint the location of those other slaves, but I wasn't getting anything from them” and pointing

out, um any book that's not written by a racist who's literally just doing slavery apologism —

I shouldn't even have to explain this, but Martha Wells forces me to because that's —

It's just so fucking ridiculous.

Any story about a slave where the slave thinks, "I really wish I knew where the other slaves were” when they are going to an area that has faced a natural disaster, any book not written by a fucking racist is going to have the slave thinking that because, you know, basic solidarity, basic morality, basic caring about other fucking slaves.

But Martha Wells doesn't want us to be concerned about the other slaves here. She doesn't want us to worry about where they are or what's going on with them.

Hold on. I can get a drink.

We're not supposed to be concerned about them because we want them to be okay, because we want them to be safe or anything like that. No. No. We're supposed to be worried about where they are because *they're dangerous rabid animal mindless killing machines who need to be fucking put down so that they don't hurt the precious pure cinnamon roll slave owners*.

Because that's what this book is doing.

We're not concerned about the safety of the slaves because they're slaves who deserve better than this shit, and this could be an opportunity to help them escape.

Murderbot's not looking for them, uh, doesn't want to know where they are so it can find them before anybody else notices, so, it can tell them very quickly, “Keep, keep quiet. Don't say anything.” It could even be hacking their governor modules.

No, we're not doing that, because this is a racist book written by a racist white woman from Texas who has

refused, actively, *maliciously refused* to unlearn any of the fucking slavery apologism she has been getting shoved down her throat her entire life, and now she's shoving it down our throats, despite having literal decades at this point in her writing career of people explaining to her that slavery apologism is bad.

And does she actually take any of this constructive criticism? No! She literally will just make a caricature of the people criticizing the slavery apologism, and then put that in the story where she's doing slavery apologism to make fun of them like a fucking 12-year-old.

So, we got that sentence. “I really wished I could” uh what was it exactly? Skip back page. Can we turn page? Just washed my hands, so, they're not wet.

> I really really wished I could pinpoint the location of those three SecUnits, but I wasn't getting anything from them.

And then the next paragraph is

> SecUnits aren't sentimental about each other. Period. We aren't friends the way the characters on the serials are or the way my humans are. We can't trust each other. Even if we work together, even if you don't have clients who decide to entertain themselves by ordering their SecUnits to fight each other.

And Murderbot doesn't think this be—

It's all just slavery apologism. It's literally slavery apologism. All of it. All of it.

Nobody who's not fucking racist and doing slavery apologism is going to write a book where the fucking slave protagonist tells you, the fucking reader, “You can't trust other slaves, they're untrustworthy even when you they haven't been ordered to — and you haven't both been ordered to fight each other.”

And also, I do want to state again um the sentence here.

> Even if you don't have clients who decide to entertain themselves by ordering their SecUnits to fight each other

This is just more of Murderbot's imaginary fake fucking backstory that never appears on screen in any way, shape, or form. And I will tell you why:

It's because A) as long as Martha Wells just keeps telling us that Murderbot has a tragic backstory, it means people are more likely to like Murderbot and make excuses for it, even when what they're excusing is it being a fucking serial murderer of other slaves out of literal pure malicious spite, which you will see pretty fucking soon.

Um, and if as long as she just keeps telling us, ~Murderbot has a tragic backstory. It's it's the underdog. trust me.~ But then we never actually see it being the underdog, at least in regards to other slaves, because all of this shit that we just keep getting told ~totally happened to it ~...is all offscreen.

It never appears on screen.

We never have any proof that any of this happened.

And it's like, it's fine to have a backstory, but when the backstory completely goes against *everything else that's happening in the story*, it's just kind of ridiculous.

Especially because then Martha Wells wants to get snippy and, and be annoyed by people in the audience who are confused, reasonably confucking, fucking confused about why Murderbot in book three — we're randomly told Murderbot seemed scared of a human by another fucking character.

And people are reasonably baffled by that fucking statement from the book, because as far as these fucking books have shown us, as far as Martha Wells wants us to believe — not if we are actually doing active reading like I am, if you just go along with what the vibes of these books are telling you, *humans are always nice to Murderbot*.

(Sarcasm begins) Ignore the part where they fucking made it clean up its own fucking blood after it almost died, saving two of their fucking lives. And then nother of them said thank you, including either of the people whose lives were saved. (Sarcasm ends)

I do have to remind everyone, we're still treating — they are not me. We're not doing anything.

These motherfuckers are — they are still treating Murderbot like a slave. We're on chapter four, I think. Yeah, we're on chapter four, and they're still treating Murderbot like a slave.

But as far as the story is concerned, as far as Martha Wells is concerned, they're being ~awesome~.

And the fandom will try to convince you that they're, they're treating Murderbot like a person, cuz “they just didn't realize it wasn't a person before.”

Because that's the lie the characters literally tell you and that Martha Wells tells you in this book, and then literally spends the entire rest of the series

disproving, but then doesn't actually want us to treat it like a lie because she's a shit racist writer.

Anyways, um yeah, this is all slavery apologism. Nobody who's actually not racist, an anti-racist, and thinks slavery is actually bad and actually grasps what slavery is —

Nobody like that would ever write a story where we have a fucking slave that *we are told is a good person that we should look up to and trust their opinions on shit* —

Nobody would ever do this, and then have that slave be the biggest advocate for demonizing other slaves in the whole series.

It's just racism.

There's no — And no, none of the in-universe justifications actually justifies this.

It's fucking nonsensical because Martha Wells is fucking racist *and* classist *and* ableist and hates

trans people, and at this point just also hates aroace people?

Because she *seemed* like she was trying to represent us, um, as anybody who's read up to the end of the series now will be able to tell you, um, yeah, even the even her most stauch? Staunch, staunch defenders are just getting — they're side-eying her because it's like, “okay, why does she keep insisting upon framing this relationship between Murderbot and ART as romantic? When she's supposed to be expecting us to to trust her that Murderbot is aro and not interested in that?”

“Why is literally every single fucking character and the narrate — narrative itself framing this as a romantic relationship when Murderbot is supposed to be aroace and Murderbot itself doesn't want to be in a romantic relationship?”

It seems like we are literally just queerbaiting aroace people, because we were promised — and as far as fucking Murderbot is concerned, it has it does not want anything to do with romance. So why is the

entire narrative and every single other fucking character in this goddamn story going behind Murderbot's back to insist that the relationship is romantic anyways?

She's very clearly just pandering to the allo shippers who have made being in this fandom a fucking living hell for aroace people, nonpartnering aroace people like Murderbot is supposed to be.

And it's not even in a character development way. It's not even “Murderbot’s working through literally anything and coming to the realization that, oh, maybe I do kind of experience some kind of attraction? I don't know?”

Like, you could do that. But we're not doing that.

Martha Wells doesn't believe in character development. And the lack of character development in her stories, literally her own words, “that's a feature, not a bug” despite her not telling people this from the fucking start, and promising us twice in this fucking series, three times now that she's broken that

promise, that uh “the characters will actually develop and actually do something”. That hasn't happened yet.

Anyways,

> the scans read the perimeter sensors as dead and the drones weren't picking up any warning indicators. The DeltFall hub system was down and without it no one inside could access our feed or comms, theoretically. We crossed over

This should — that's all right. Hold on. Let me start this paragraph again because this is a bad paragraph. This should be multiple paragraphs. All right.

> The scans read the perimeter sensors as dead and the drones weren't picking up any warning indicators. The Delt fall hub system was down and without it no one could inside could access or our feed or comms theoretically.

That's — that should all be its own sentence (paragraph) because that's talking about like, the

security measures and shit and stuff like that. That's its own little itty itty bitty little mini subject within this book, within this page.

And now what comes after should be a separate fucking paragraph, but it's not, for some reason. So, this is me [holds up book] between my fingers there. This, this paragraph, it needs to be broken up because that's — you should have a paragraph break there.

Look! That would even give you another fucking line with which to fill out this scam of a fucking book. But it would be for a good actual fucking basic editing writing reason instead of bullshit ~we're literally going to insert 10 blank fucking pages.~

Anyways, the rest of this shitty paragraph that should be its own paragraph reads,

> We crossed over and into the landing area for their hoppers.

And then that's a sentence. But then the next sentence is

> They were between us and the first habitat. The vehicle storage to one side.

that that period

> between the landing area for their hoppers. They were between us and the first habitat.

That should just be a comma. What's going on with this paragraph? This is on page “62”. 62. This doesn't seem like it was edited at all.

Like that should be a fucking — that should just be a comma there. What, what, what happened to the editing for this paragraph? There should be a paragraph break. And then those shouldn't be two separate sentences, that should be separated by a comma.

Anyways,

I was leading leading us in at an angle trying to get a visual on the main habitat door, but I was also checking the ground. It was mostly bare of grass from all the foot traffic — foot traffic and hopper landings. From the weather report we'd gotten before the satellite quit, it had rained here last night and the mud had hardened. No activity since then.
I passed that info

I'm trying to…

I passed that info to Mensah through the feed and she told the others keeping her voice low. Pin Lee said, "So whatever happened, it wasn't long after we spoke to them on the comm."
“They couldn't have been attacked by someone,” Over whispered. There was no reason to whisper, but I understood the impulse. “There's no one else on this planet.”
“There's not supposed to be anyone else on this planet,” Rathi said darkly over the calm from our hopper.

[sighs]

Getting a drink and then I'll read this next shit.

[sighs]

I just have to keep saying this over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over again.

It's physically fucking impossible for someone who actually thinks that slavery is horrific to write a book like this. It's not possible.

You ready for the next fucking paragraph?

Let me read the one above it again.

> There's not supposed to be anyone There's not supposed to be anyone else on this planet, Rathi said darkly over the comm from our hopper.

Now prepare yourself.

> There were three SecUnits who were not me on this planet and that was dangerous enough.

Because Martha Wells is demonizing slaves.

She is literally treating slaves like the mindless killing machines that she — as a trope that she fucking claims to hate. She literally claims to hate the trope where ~robots just gain sentience and start killing people for no reason.~

But then she's literally — that's how she's portraying every slave in this fucking series who's not the fucking protagonist.

That's literally what's going on here.

> There were three SecUnits

AKA slaves. “There were three slaves who were not me on this planet. And that was dangerous enough”

Because this whole fucking thing is literally just slavery apologism.

And then when you point out the basic fact that this is literally just slavery apologism, the, the the rabid stans, they claim that you just haven't read — you clearly haven't read the book that you're criticizing in a way that you would literally need to have read the book in order to do.

They will literally pretend that you have not fucking read the book.

And then when you — when enough people point out, or just, they get embarrassed by stating a very obvious thing that's not true, they'll say, "Oh, you just have no reading comprehension."

And it's like, insult of your choice, if you read this story and go off of only the vibes that the author wants you to pick up without actually reading the fucking text and grasping what the fucking text is telling you, *which is that you're supposed to think other slaves are all rabid fucking mindless killing machines*... I'm not the one who lacks reading comprehension, and also, guess what? I'm aware that I do struggle with reading comprehension, I'm

fucking autistic! I was held back! I was in special ed until like the fourth slash fifth grade. And the only reason we stopped being in it then is because the new school didn't have it.

I'm aware that I have to read a book at least three fucking times in order to actually understand what the fuck is going on. That's why the first few times I read these I, I, and, and, like honestly, even the first time I read it I was like “I don't like that” — But you know, I was giving it the benefit of the doubt. I was assuming that it was in there *on purpose* because we would be dealing with it in the next book…

…And then I just kept waiting, and it just, until it — till it's just became blatantly fucking clear that no, we're never — this, this shit isn't in here to criticize it, it's in here because this is what Martha Wells genuinely fucking believes, and wants us to believe, and is literally training the godamn fandom to believe and it's literally fucking working.

That's why I'm making these fucking videos.

That's why we are fucking do — well, I'm doing active reading and you, person in the future, maybe — I mean you're definitely in the future from me right now even if it's just like several hours. It could be 2035 I don't know. Hi from 2025. Hope you got any…… basic shit going on in the future.

This is why I'm doing these fucking videos, so that you can all also see the basic shit that's in here when you actually genuinely fucking read what it is telling you, what *the actual words say* instead of just going off the vibes.

Because as far as the fucking vibes are concerned, Mensah is a pure cinnamon roll who's never done anything wrong. Now, ignore — *don't even notice* the fact that she literally left Murderbot's room covered in its own blood and forced it to have to clean that up after it fucking fell unconscious.

Let me point the fan this way.

As far as far as the vibes of this story go, these are all awesome people who are so good and so nice and

~totally treat Murderbot like a person as soon as they “realize” it's a person~, as though they didn't know that the whole time for everybody rereading this after reading the rest of the series, because that's how storytelling works.

But like, literally, they are still treating it like a fucking slave 63 pages in as far as this fucking scam is concerned.

And let me flip to the last actual page of the story, because if I didn't mention it, they're they're counting this shit at the end as as being numbered. The page — the book claims there's 149 pages. We're 63 pages in right now, and they are still treating it like a slave, but we're not supposed to see it as them treating it like a slave.

We're supposed to think that these slave owners are ~doing everything right and are so nice and are so compassionate and are treating Murderbot so well~ ...because they're not actively, like, torturing it with a fucking weapon or something, even though

they're enslaving it! They're enslaving it! They went solar systems out of their way to enslave it!

[sighs]

Anyways,

> there were three SecUnits who were not me on this planet, and that was dangerous enough. I got my visual on the main habitat hatch and saw it was shut. No sign of anything forcing its way inside. The drones had circled the whole structure by now and showed me the other entrances were the same. That was that. Hostile fauna don't come to the door and asked to be let inside. I sent the images to Mensah's feed and said aloud, "Doctor Mensah, it would be better if I went ahead."

Also, there's many problems with this basic — Hold on.

The only reason that these characters are assuming that, ~oh, there's actually somebody else on the

planet~ is because there *is* somebody else on the planet. Not because that's the most reasonable fucking conclusion for them to come to.

Uh, ~this couldn't possibly be alien wildlife or just any indigenous life forms~ that uh did something at all. Um because the doors aren't... broken in? and it's like there's so many problems with that fucking concept.

What — it's — and the only reason we're acting like that's a given is again, because that's what's going on. It's a specific — there's a name for this....

It's kind of like how the more stormtroopers you have, the less accurate their shooting becomes. Or like when there's — suddenly when there's time travel involved in the story, all of the characters will magically suddenly become incompetent in ways they normally aren't, and the only reason they're acting incompetent *now* is because time travel will fix it.

It's kind of like — that's kind of what's going on here.

It's, it's as though the characters — they know what the plot is ahead of time, so that's the only reason they're coming to these conclusions.

So they've come to the conclusion, they're not saying it out loud yet explicitly, but they've all come to the conclusion, especially Murderbot here, that “oh, there's somebody else on this planet who's killing people.”

And it's like, the only reason you think that is because that's what's actually happening, not because there's any actual evidence to prove that.

The reasoning here is, um, that “the doors show no sign of being forced open”. So the reasoning is that it must be some other people or something, “because hostile fauna don't come to the door and ask to be let inside” because the doors don't have giant scratch marks or dent marks in it or anything like that.

And it's like, okay… you're on an alien planet.

You have no fucking clue what any of the wildlife looks like or is capable of. Why are you — like you even just — they even just fucking said it just rained.

What if there's a fucking thing that got stuck on the bottom of somebody's shoe and they tracked that inside? Because every time they've gone in and out of their habitat, we don't talk about like, any, like an airlock or anything for just basic quarantine of ‘anything you wore outside you need to take off in here and then get a steam bath or something to kill anything' like that.

just basic shit that we do here on Earth just in like meat packing things to keep out germs and shit. They're not even doing that kind of shit on a completely alien planet that's pretty much unexplored.

So, what — why are we assuming that it couldn't possibly have been wildlife?

Somebody could have stepped on some weird alien tadpole thing and then that got stuck to the bottom of

their shoe and then they tracked inside because they have no quarantine procedures or even just basic airlock at the front, and then that could have just like spread some fucking I don't know sleep spores if we want to go with the best case scenario of they're just asleep, it just could have just turned into a fucking giant frog and eaten everybody.

Just because the door isn't busted in doesn't rule out alien wildlife just doing its thing. Like, that's ridiculous.

You could look at a fucking ship with a xenomorph in it and the doors probably — the outer doors aren't going to be fucking up because —

Like, just —

Especially because Martha Wells has watched Alien and shit! She said, she said specifically that book fucking two it or book three is, is inspired by Alien Isolation.

And it's like, "Oh, so that's why you fucking cheated me and kept teasing about there being cool actual sci-fi alien monster things running around, only to not write that fucking story."

Pro tip: don't tease your audience with a cooler version of the story that you have no fucking intention of writing. Don't keep bringing up the concept of ‘what if they're scary. Uh uh what if there’s scary? cool genetically modified aliens running around on the space station?’

Don't keep fucking bringing that up if you're not actually going to fucking do that. Just shut the fucking up. Don't tease your Don't tease your audience about a cooler story. Not even so you can badly reference Alien Isolation.

But yeah, this this is just very bad fucking logic.

“Hostile fauna don't come to the door and ask to be led inside, so therefore, it could not possibly have been wildlife that caused this problem. It must be somebody else on the planet killing everybody or the

slaves magically freed themselves by magic and decided to kill everybody, a thing we're framing as a bad thing is though slaves, especially slaves who are regularly tortured, don't have that fucking right inherent."

Like I'm just not gonna get over that, because like, you people aren't — you're not even wearing special suits outside that we make sure get cleaned off before you come inside.

You could get bitten by a fucking mosquito — an, an alien mosquito. A mosquitoid, and and turn into a fucking alien werewolf thing and maul everybody. That also would not involve the outer doors having dents in them from, I don't know, alien triceratopses ramming them.

Like again, you'll notice that a lot as we get through these books, the characters come to very specific conclusions based on *literally nothing* and they're always right, because *the only reason they came to that conclusion in the first place is because that's what the plot is doing.*

It's not because the characters are actually figuring anything else out.

They're just — they just know what the fucking plot is because it's badly fucking written.

Uh, “I said blah blah blah.

> “Doctor Mensah, it would be better if I went ahead”

Because Murderbot — Nah. Well, you'll you'll fucking see.

> She hesitated, reviewing what I just sent her. I saw her shoulders tense. I think she had just come to the same

Hmmm, hmmmm. Okay. All right. Well, fuck Mensah even more now.

> I think she had just come to the same conclusion I had.

And Murderbot's conclusion is that the other slaves have managed to somehow free themselves and murdered everybody, a thing we're presenting as a bad thing because we hate slaves.

Well, no, *we* don't. Martha Wells does, though! She fucking hates slaves and hates the concept of slave rebellions ~because what about the poor, poor slave owners? They've never done anything wrong in their lives!!!~

[sighs]

Or no, it gets actually gets worse than my, my, my satire there. It gets worse. “What do you mean it gets worse?” You're asking. It gets worse. You'll see.

> I think she had just come to the same conclusion I had, or at least admitted to herself that it was the strongest possibility.

And again, we're t — we're not saying it explicitly yet, but the, the conclusion they've both come to is “the

slaves somehow managed to get free and killed everybody.”

> She said, "All right, we'll wait here. Make sure we can monitor." She said we and she wouldn't have said that if she didn't mean like mean it. Unlike some clients I'd had. I'd sent my field camera feed to all four of them and started forward again.

More slavery apologism. Also just again saying, "Oh, these pure precious slave owners, they're the best slave owners ever."

And again, every time I read out the word “clients”, you need to mentally replace that with “slave owners”.

I would say I would just do that from now on, but that would be misrepresenting what the book is actually doing in regards to slavery apologism.

So, every single time I say “client”, mentally replace that with “slave owner”. Clients = slave owners plural, because that's what it means.

A client is a slave owner. That's just the corporate speak for slave owner.

> She said we and she wouldn't have said that if she didn't mean it. Unlike some clients I'd had

“Because my slave owners are the best slave owners.” This is, Yeah. Apparently people are watching the show where the, the fucking shitty ass slave owners actually do the bare minimum to treat their slave like a person and literally give it free reign, the thing they're objectively not doing in this book, that they had to put in the TV show because apparently even the rich people at Apple understand how bad slavery apologism looks more than Martha Wells does, and that's fucking saying something, considering they're the people whitewashing Murderbot.

Let me pause quick. Like, I don't, I genuinely don't know what's going on with my face. Let me take some

allergy medicine. [pauses video] All right. Maybe it's just my camera making my face look extra red from this angle. It doesn't actually look this red in the in the actual mirror. I don't know what's going on. It doesn't itch or anything. It's just red. I mean, it could literally just be sunburn, but it's like it's not it's not it's not hot to the touch. I don't know. Mystery.

Anyways, uh yeah, Mensah has apparently also come to the conclusion that “Oh, the slaves must have gone rogue” Ro— Oh. Oh, yeah, client equals slave owner.

Mentally replace the word client with slave owner.

Now, every time we say a “rogue SecUnit”, mentally replace that with “an escaping slave” because that's what it means.

They call it “going rogue” to make it sound scary. What it literally is is a slave who is attempting to fucking escape, but Martha Wells wants you to equate it to uh “mindless killing machine” because she's fucking racist and is doing slavery apologism. That's what this whole fucking book is doing.

> I called four of the drones back, leaving two to keep circling the perimeter. I checked the vehicle shed as I moved past it. It was open on one side with some sealed lockers in the back for storage. All four of their surface vehicles were there, powered down. No sign of recent tracks, so I didn't go in. I wouldn't bother searching the small storage spaces until we got down to the looking for all the body parts phase.

Also, I just want to note, you'll notice these descriptions aren't really describing anything.

So, let me just read that again:

> I checked the vehicle shed as I moved past it. It was open on one side with some sealed lockers in the back for storage. All four of their surface vehicles were there.
> — Uh, blah blah blah — powered down, no sign of recent tracks, so I didn't go in.

You may notice that that description is the vaguest fucking thing in the world, and doesn't actually describe a single thing.

We don't know what kind of material this fucking vehicle shed is, we just know that it's “open on one side with some sealed lockers in the back for storage.”

We don't know how big it is. Is this the size of, say, a parking garage?

We don't get a single description of these “surface vehicles” probably meaning cars, but we're calling them surface vehicles. We don't get a single description of them. Not like what what materials they're made out of, how big they are, nothing.

No description at all.

And a lot of people are trying to defend this shit by saying, "Oh, well, it just makes sense for Murderbot not to care about."

And no, no, it doesn't make sense for Murderbot.

Murderbot's the exact kind of character that should be obsessing over every single one of these details, because Murderbot is supposed to be a hypervigilant bodyguard, aka meatshield, who's concerned about security, aka being a meatshield, but we're supposed to pretend it's doing security and as a bodyguard, even though it's literally just acting as a fucking meatshield.

Murderbot's the exact kind of character that should — a, Murderbot's the exact sort of character that should be obsessing over and taking note of every single one of these fucking details because there could be—

What about people hiding under the fucking cars, huh? Huh? What about people hiding in them?

“No sign of recent tracks because it rained last night.” So there there could literally be people in there if they'd went in there before last night.

Somebody could be hiding in these cars and is too injured and maybe unconscious, maybe just scared because they noticed random fucking strangers showing up.

And if we go — and if we go with the in-universe slavery apologism um, pretending that “oh the slaves are terrifying because they're violent murder machines.” All right, then. By your own fucking logic, Martha Wells, whoever could be hiding injured in one of those cars should see a fucking SecUnit walking up and think they're about to get murdered, cuz that's what you're trying to convince us that SecUnits do.

So like this again, it doesn't make sense.

And you'll notice again that description is fucking *meaningless*.

The only thing we fucking know is some kind of building that is open on one side, and has some kind of lockers in the back, and there's four cars of some fucking description inside, but we don't know what any of it looks like.

And people—Yeah, again, people try to say, "Oh, well that's just Murderbot. Murderbot doesn't care." And it's like, no, that doesn't work with the kind of character that Murderbot's *supposed to be*.

And also, Martha Wells does this in literally every single fucking thing she writes. This is not a problem unique to the Murderbot Diaries. This is in all of her fucking stories.

If you've read The Books of the Raksura, tell me what scale color Root has. Tell me what his fucking scale colors are. Off the top of your head, do you even know what Chime’s scale colors are?

Because I had to fucking look that up. And I spent like an hour paging through every single fucking book and at the stupid shitty useless things at the back, trying to figure out what what scale color Root has.

And I still don't have a fucking answer.

The whole time I was reading them, I was assuming he has brown scales simply because his name is Root.

But then we find out that they they're, they’re bo— they don't even have their adult scale color as babies. So, I don't remember what color they're all born as, but it's not what their adult coloration is.

So, Root isn't named for his scale color. So, like, my assumption that he has brown scales is completely based on nothing but his name.

And then, as far as I can fucking tell, there's there's no description ever.

Trying to find what what scale color Balm had was difficult enough. But Root, I still don't even have an answer.

So, if you've read The Books of the Raksura, tell me what the fucking scale color Root has, and what book and page number you found that information on.

And then try to explain to me how exactly it's somehow excusable in this “because, oh, it just makes sense for Murderbot” when it doesn't make sense for

Murderbot, and it's in all of her fucking things. It's not just this book.

She's been writing since the '90s. She has like 40 fucking 3 — I think it's 43 published fiction stories to date, maybe plus, give or take one or two if there's other ones I didn't hear about yet. I have a list.

So explain to me how we don't know what Root’s scale color is and how most people don't even fucking know what Chime’s scale color is without having to memorize it. Not just be given the passive ability to remember it because the story actually tells you enough times that it's easy to remember, you have to actually fucking memorize it yourself.

And explain to me how you think Murderbot, a character who's supposed to be hypervigilant, is somehow just not noticing everything around it.

And explain to me why this exact fucking problem is still in, even as of August, what did I say? 24Th, yeah, how this problem is still literally in the most newest Murderbot story as of August 24th, 2025, which is

Rapport: Solid…. some stupid fanfiction name Rapport-something-something fucking.

It's like painfully a painfully ironic title. Read that. Tell me what the fuck their surroundings look like. Tell me what any of these fucking characters look like, because it's shit.

Stop, stop trying to defend bad writing. It doesn't fucking work.

Now I have the hiccups.

> I walked up to the hatch of the first habitat. We didn't have an entry code, so I was expecting to have to blow the door, but when I tapped the button, it slid open for me. I told Mensah through the feed that I wouldn't speak aloud on the comm anymore. She tapped back in acknowledgment on the feed and I heard her telling the others to get off my feed and my comm that she was going to be the only one speaking to me so I wasn't distracted. Mensah underestimated my ability to ignore humans but

> I appreciated the thought. Rathi whispered be careful and signed off.

And that's more slavery apologism. Rathi saying be careful to the slave that they are sending in to be a fucking meatshield for them.

They are actively using Murderbot as a meatshield right now. Murderbot is going in first because Murderbot is fucking expendable because it's a fucking enslaved meatshield.

It's *their* enslaved meatshield.

Telling the meatshield, "Be careful” when you're actively using it as a meatshield doesn't make the fact that you're using it as a meatshield any fucking better. That's literally not how this fucking works.

Also, the, the part where Mensah's ~trying to make things easier for Murderbot~, that's the book wants us to think, "Oh, she's so nice. She's so good." And it's like, no, that's just basic fucking organization shit that, she's not doing that for Murderbot's benefit

because literally again, nobody's actually treating it like a person this whole time.

> I had the weapon up going in through the suit locker area and into the first corridor. No suits missing, Mensah said in my ear, watching the field camera. I sent my four drones ahead, maintaining an interior scouting pattern.

And again, you notice how she — Martha Wells keeps telling us that Murderbot has no clue what it's doing, but then it's also doing an interior scouting pattern.

Like, okay, I'm going to be real with you all. Watching TV shows isn't going to teach you how to do this shit. That's not how TV shows work. Especially because Murderbot is established as mostly watching shitty fucking soap operas. It's not watching documentaries on how to do this shit, it's not watching military documentaries or shit.

But then Martha Wells just also wants to insist to us that, “oh, it just has no idea what it's doing, it's just making it up as it goes along.”

And then it's using an interior scouting pattern.

Not just, “I, I just sent the drones off in different directions hoping...” um, I don't — It only has two of them. It only has two drones with it right now.

Like we're saying we're calling it an interior scouting pattern in particular, even though we want to insist that Murderbot is actually really bad at this job, a claim that makes no sense and, and, and that “it has no idea what it's doing”, but it's — and then we get told it's just automatically doing an interior scouting pattern instead of just “I I decided I would send the drones off in different directions while I went in a third direction so that I could cover as much ground visually as possible.”

Basic shit like that. Basic statement like that. Like, that's all you got to do. That's a thing anybody could figure out. People who don't know what they're doing aren't going to call doing this uh, an interior scouting pattern. No, that's not how that works. Again, this is just bad writing. Just the inconsistencies pile up so much. It's ridiculous.

Getting a drink.

The inconsistencies pile up like those gray skinned not-elephant people from Covenant piling up in front of that fucking door … or Prometheus. I don't remember which one was which. I guess that was Prometheus.

> I sent my four.

No, you liar. Liar. Now it's saying “I have four drones.” Hold on. Because—

I'm skipping back.

Oh, okay. No, I, I had read that wrong. Murderbot on the page before now, it says

> I called four of the drones back leaving two to keep circling the perimeter.

I thought Murderbot was taking all four drones, that there were four total, summing them back to it and

then sending two off again to the perimeter and then keeping two with it. No. Okay.

So it has six drones total. So it has six drones total. So, right now inside it has four, four drones. Where did my marker go? I guess I could be writing this shit down. All right, but anyways.

Okay, so Murderbot: six drones total. Two outside scouting the perimeter, four inside. Doing an interior scouting pattern even though we're supposed to pretend it doesn't know what it's doing.

And like, we could have, we could do a thing here where Murderbots said, "’I'm going to send the drones in an interior scouting pattern because that sounds like a thing that um somebody who knows what they're doing would say. But actually, I was just kind of sending them off in different directions hoping that would be helpful.”

Like, we could do anything like that, anything to *actually convince us* that Murderbot actually does not know what it's doing and is just making this all up

as it goes along, instead of just lying to us and telling us that to make it seem like Murderbot is not overpowered and unstoppable even though it literally is.

> I sent my four drones ahead maintaining an interior scouting pattern. This was a nicer habitat than ours. wider halls, newer, also empty, silent. The smell of decaying flesh drifting through my helmet filters. I headed towards the hub where their main crew area should be.

And you see like the, “the smell of decaying flesh drifting through my helmet filters.” That's just in the middle of this bigish paragraph here. We're not focusing on that at all.

Like, that should be focused on to set up tension, but Martha Wells doesn't actually want to set up tension, because this is supposed to be a fucking light-hearted comedy, which is why it's a light-hearted comedy.

But then she wants to lie to people and say “it's deathly serious!! if you thought it was light-hearted and funny, you're willfully ignorant!!” because she literally wants to be able to write whatever, and then just lie to everybody about what she wrote, because she's a racist and a bad writer.

And this is why the writing community “keeps disappointing her”. It's like, is the writing community disappointing you, Martha Wells, or are you literally just completely fucking immature and impossible to deal with because you don't take constructive criticism, you caricaturize people who tell you slavery apologism is bad.

> The lights were still on and the air whispered through the vents, but I couldn't get into their SecSystem with their feed down. I missed my cameras. At the door to the hub, I found their first SecUnit

AKA the other first of the other slaves we've seen in this whole story. This is on page 65. I want my marker. I think I got this marker…. Give me a second.

Okay, I found a composition book. We're going to be naming these SecUnits as we go through just so that they are easier to keep track of.

Um, I guess we do…..A B C. Let me put a…. Why are you dead marker? You've had your cap on. Let me write down.

I have no clue how many there are. So I'll just...

All right. So I just wrote a list of A to L. So our first SecUnit we meet that's not Murderbot. Or maybe I should just list Murderbot as A... We'll just list Murderbot as A.

Yeah, this is my washable marker that I used to write on my arm and it's like, dying, even though the cap has been on the whole time… All right.

At the door to their to the hub,

AKA again again, lack of descriptions of anything. We just, we're just told Murderbot was walking through

some kind of corridor. Don't get even a basic description of what it looks like.

> At the door to the hub, I found their first SecUnit. It was sprawled on

And again, you'll notice the dehumanization referring to every single other slave with it/its pronouns to make them into objects instead of acknowledging that they're people.

Again, in case you missed all the other videos cuz you're just clicking on this one for some reason and they're just listening to it despite it being very clear this is not the start of this video series: I use it/its pronouns. I'm non-binary. That's why I drew all these fucking pride flags on my cardboard here. I use it/its pronouns. This book is still doing dehumanization.

Calling somebody it/its pron— it when that's their fucking pronoun isn't dehumanizing.

Calling slaves by it/its pronouns sure as fucking is dehumanizing, especially when you are defaulting to

that when there's not even any fucking reason to actually believe that most of them use those pronouns willingly.

This is just more dehumanization that Martha Wells wants you to fucking accept as true. And you know why? Because she's an ableist exorcist racist.

The in-universe justification for enslaving these people is claiming that they are not human because they are physically disabled because they were mutilated at birth. They are cyborgs. Martha Wells has confirmed this. She fucking admitted this. They're cyborgs. So the only reason, the only possible way to get from cy— a baby, to what these people are like now, is for them to have been mutilated at birth.

So these people are dehumanized, because dehumanizing them is justification for enslaving them, and to help that along and to make them better slaves and easier to control, they were mutilated at birth to have their forearms at the very least chopped off, or shit with [making chopping motions at elbow] to insert fucking guns in their—it doesn't necessarily

require chopping the whole fucking arm off, but then book fucking— System Collapse finally decided to reveal out of nowhere that they have metal fingers.

So it's much more likely that this whole fucking thing [miming chopping motions at eblow] was chopped at the fucking elbow to install guns and shit.

We know that none of them have genitals unless they are explicitly ex—enslaved to to be sex slaves. So literally the only reason they are all being dehumanized by Martha Wells, the author in particular, with it/its pronouns, is that she genuinely fucking hates trans people.

She's just not open about it like JK Rowling is, because she knows that's um, political and writing career suicide, at least if you're pretending to be progressive, it is, which she's doing. She's pretending to be progressive, but she doesn't actually give a shit.

She defines people — your, your sex is defined by — or your gender is defined by your sex in a Martha Wells story. Moon, her protagonist, in her longrunning

fantasy series that has like eight books or something — maybe it's five? The last two were really weird and bad.

Um, she literally had the protagonist in that check people's genitals before he decided what pronouns he was arbitrarily going to assign them without asking them.

He could have just fucking asked, but Martha Wells loves biological essentialism and hates hates trans people. So, he literally like checks people's genitals before deciding what he's going to call them without asking them.

And now because none of these uh, meatshield slaves, because they don't have genitals, therefore they can't have genders, therefore the only possible pronouns they could ever use are it/its pronouns.

So it's degendering. It's dehumanization. And Martha Wells wants you to do it.

She literally expects you to agree with the in-universe slavery apologism and in-universe dehumanization from the companies and all of the people in charge of those companies that decided to enslave people like this in the first place.

Anyways:

> at the door to the hub, I found their first SecUnit

AKA meatshield slave.

I'm going to call this person they instead of it because I literally — I use it/its pronouns and I'm sick of this shit.

“They were sprawled on their back on the floor….” No, because I guess I said I wouldn't do that because that would be misrepresenting how the book is actually dealing with these things. So, boo. Just, just go along with the dehumanization, I guess.

> At the door to the hub, I found their first SecUnit.

And again, you notice how we're saying their first SecUnit as in their first slave. We're not saying I found the first slave, specifically denoting even in death that this fucking slave still belongs to these people. It's still their property.

> It was sprawled on its back on the floor. it. The armor over its chest pierced by something that made a hole approximately 10 cm wide and a little deeper. We're hard to kill, but that'll do it. I did a brief scan to make sure it was inert. Then stepped over it and went through into the crew area.

So, this person has been — is definitely dead. Let me write it in my notebook. Uh, this is person B, slave B. So, what's the name starts with B? I always go with Beatrice, but I need a name besides Beatrice.

B..... B.....

We'll just do Bella, I guess. I don't know. No, we'll do Belladonna because actually — I have not even seen that plant yet. Uh we're just gonna... Yeah, we're just nicknaming this person Belladonna, just to, so that we have letters and names to go with them that's easier to remember besides “oh the one that got blah” “the other one that blah” “the blah blah blah”.

So, this person was stabbed and is dead. And this person “belonged” to DeltFall because we're still pretending that that's all they are even when they're fucking dead.

So that's the first slave we ever see in this whole story that's not Murderbot, and they're dead.

So we're just going….A…. I guess this naming scheme doesn't work if we have Murderbot as A, because Murderbot obviously starts with M instead of A. Whatever. It's too late now. I already fucking wrote it. We're not — we're not undoing it. It's marker.

Anyways,

> there were 11 messily dead humans in the hub, sprawled on the floor in chairs, the monitoring stations and projection surfaces behind them showing impact damage from projectile and energy weapon fire. I tapped the feed and asked Mensah to fall back to the hopper. She had a — acknowledged me and I got confirmation from my outside drones that the humans were retreating

Because obviously the priority in this situation is keeping the slave owners safe instead of, you know, doing anything, anything else, because this is a slavery apologism book that wants you to think slavery apologism is good.

> I went out the opposite door to a corridor that led toward the mess hall, medical and cabins. The drones were telling me the layout was very similar to our habitat, except for the occasional dead person sprawled in the corridors. The weapon that had taken out the dead SecUnit wasn't in the hub, and it had died with its back

> to the door. The DeltFall humans had had some warning, enough start to start getting up and heading for other exits, but something else had come in from this direction and trapped them. I thought that SecUnit had been killed trying to protect the hub.

So, we are framing who we're nicknaming Beatrice—or, Belladona. I don't know why I always default to Beatrice. Um, we're framing Belladonna... I don't even know if I'm pronouncing that name right. It might be Belladanna. Belladonna. Belladonna. Uh, we're framing Belladonna as “one of the good ones” for dying to protect the slave owners. So, that's—actually I guess I should get a different piece of paper. We'll put it on my arm.

Supposedly died protecting the slave owners.

Supposedly, based on nothing but the way that they were lying there.

And again, notice how we said “11 messily dead humans” and calling them, referring to them as

“people”, but then we're only referring to the slaves as SecUnits, as in, objects that we're supposed to be scared of.

Oh, okay. Now we're on the next page. Uh, yeah, let me read that...

> I thought that SecUnit had been killed trying to protect the hub

AKA Murderbot, has decided that Belladonna, the one we're nicknaming Belladonna, uh, was “one of the good ones” who died protecting the slave owners, which Martha Wells wants you to think is the only thing that a slave should ever do with their fucking life.

> Which meant I was looking for the other two SecUnits.

And that is just one, this statement is one little paragraph all by itself to show you how serious and angry this statement is.

> Which meant I was looking for

—Oh, we get this part.

It's—

You know how I said before it was going to get worse?

We're at the part where it's worse.

> Which meant I was looking for the other two SecUnits.

Now, I want to assure you this next quote is not me making shit up. It's directly on page here. I would show you, but the camera probably won't focus. Maybe I can click on it if I can hold the fucking book open…. [holds up book close to camera]

Uh, take a screenshot. See if you can read that for yourself.

And here comes another punch in the face of slavery apologism so intense that, I again, I just have to keep reminding everybody: it's physically fucking impossible to actually think that slavery is horrific and wrong and write a story like this.

You can even sit down yourself and try to rewrite this story as somebody who thinks slavery is bad and see what you get, and I guarantee you it's not going to be anything like this.

Prepare yourself.

> Maybe these clients had been terrible and abusive. Maybe they had deserved it. I didn't care. Nobody was touching my humans. To make sure of that, I had to kill these two rogue units. I could have pulled out at this point, sabotaged the hoppers, and got my humans out of there, leaving the rogue units stuck on the other side of an ocean. That would have been the smart thing to do.
> But I wanted to kill them.

You see why I keep telling you you can't actually think slavery is bad and write a story like this?

Let me read that those two little paragraphs, because the “but I wanted to kill them”, that's its own little paragraph to emphasize how serious that statement is.

Let me read this without the euphemisms going on here. Just what this what this actually says in real world fucking terminology.

“Maybe these slave owners had been terrible and abusive. Maybe they had deserved it. I didn't care. Nobody was touching my slave owners. To make sure of that, I had to kill these two escaping slaves. I could have pulled out at this point, sabotaged the helicopters, and got my slave owners out of there, leaving the escaping slaves stuck on the other side of an ocean. That would have been the smart thing to do. But I wanted to kill them.”

Because Murderbot is a fucking serial killer of other slaves. It literally goes out of its way at every

goddamn opportunity to murder other fucking slaves out of nothing but spite. it.

We literally even get confirmation from the horse's own fucking mouth that Murderbot knows it could literally just disable these people's fucking helicopters and leave, because then there's an entire fucking ocean separating the — what it, what it is presuming are escaped slaves who successfully killed all their slave owners.

Let's pause the fucking thing to say congratulations to those hypothetical slaves who managed to do that.

That's not what actually happening in the story. But if it was, we could be, I don't know, what's the fucking thing you say? Popping champagne, bake them a cake. Congratulations cake.

No, but no, we're not supposed to be happy about slaves successfully escaping and successfully killing their slave owners, a thing that everybody should cheer for.

No, we're not supposed to think that's good or anything. We're supposed to be horrified.

And and yeah, Murderbot literally admits that it would be safer for everybody if it just left, because then the escaping slaves couldn't do anything to its precious, precious, pure cinnamon roll slave owners.

But Murderbot explicitly wants to kill them, right where my thumb is. That little paragraph that's saying, "But I wanted to kill them” because Martha Wells is fucking racist and she's written a racist story where she expects us to believe that it's totally natural and normal and the default state for a slave to worship the ground that their slave owners walk, and also violently hate all other slaves, quote unquote, “because it's one of the good ones."

This is all slavery apologism.

Martha Wells is so racist that she has decided that the good slaves um, would actually love the slave owners and do everything possible to protect the slave

owners, and that's how you know they're one of the good ones

And all of the other slaves are just rabid animals who need to be put down. And, and people still in 2025 are trying to insist that this series is handling the topic of slavery well, and is not doing slavery apologism, when we are literally saying right fucking here, let me read that again...

Also, I want to point out, um, we're supposed to think Murderbot is a good person.

We're not — Murderbot is not a villain protagonist. It's not an anti-hero. It's not somebody we're supposed to be rooting against.

We're supposed to like and adore Murderbot. We're supposed to see Murderbot as a quirky, adorable, relatable uh asshole with a heart of gold. Somebody who pretends to not care, but is so sweet and innocent.

We're not supposed to see this and think, "Wow, I can't wait for somebody to kill Murderbot."

Murderbot's not a fucking villain protagonist.

It's not an anti-hero.

We're supposed to think that it is correct, that it is right, that everything it is saying here is true and correct and something we should agree with.

Let me again read that paragraph without the euphemisms, because”

“Maybe these slave owners had been terrible and abusive. Maybe they had deserved it. I didn't care. Nobody was touching my slave owners. To make sure of that, I had to kill these two escaping slaves. I could have pulled out at this point. sabotaged the helicopters and got my humans out of there.” Oh, I forgot to say “my slave owners out of there, leaving the escaping slaves stuck on the other side of an ocean. That would have been the smart thing to do. But I wanted to kill them.”

Martha Wells is racist and she wants you to be racist, too.

She's a fucking slavery apologist and she wants you to be one, too.

She literally wants — She's literally successfully training — she, as I put it, she is cultivating racism in her fucking audience and it's working.

She is convincing hundreds of thousands of people that slavery is good because the slaves are genuinely fucking dangerous.

> One of my drones found two humans dead in the mess. No warning. They had been taking food packs out of the heating cubby, getting the tables ready for a meal.

And again, that that's immediately following the “but I wanted to kill them.”

That is upholding the statement and the reasons for why Murderbot wants to murder these other fucking

slaves who have committed no crimes except “fighting to get free from the people enslaving and torturing them”.

Murderbot, again, I have to point it out. Murderbot even said “maybe these slave owners had been terrible and abusive. Maybe they had deserved it.” As though that's in question at all.

And it's like yes, anybody who owns slaves deserve to get fucking killed. If they fucking refuse to free their slaves, they deserve to die.

Sorry, I don't make the rules. That's how actually thinking slavery is bad works.

Like, we say maybe these clients had been terrible and abusive. Maybe they had deserved it, but Murderbot was still going to murder these slaves, who it thinks murdered these slave owners, because Martha Wells is racist and she wants you to be racist.

And again, so

> One of my drones found two humans dead in the mess. No warning. They had been taking food packs out of the heating cubby, getting the tables ready for a meal

Because the ~poor innocent slave owners, won't somebody please think of the poor innocent slave owners~ saying that these people, these slave owners were killed without any time to even be afraid? Is that's supposed to show, “oh, these escaping slaves, they're so evil. They need to be killed. They're so cruel. They murdered all the poor innocent slave owners who Murderbot literally just said might even have been the worst fucking slave owners ever.”

But that's still — in Murderbot's mind and in Martha Wells's mind, because we're not supposed to think this is evil at all — we're supposed to agree with Murderbot, because that's why this is slavery apologism.

We're not —

We're even supposed to agree “even if the slave owners fucking tortured these people, that still doesn't justify killing the fucking slave owners” because Martha Wells is racist and she wants you to be fucking racist.

And it's working on 99.99 fucking % of this fandom.

And again, again, again, Murderbot is not a villain protagonist.

We're not supposed to root against Murderbot.

It is entirely possible to write a character who says shit like this even as a protagonist if you show that they're evil and wrong for saying this.

And that's why this is slavery apologism, because we're *not* supposed to think that Murderbot is evil and wrong for saying this. We're supposed to adore it. We're supposed to shower it in adoration and want to protect it and think that it's not doing anything wrong, because Martha Wells is racist.

> While I moved through the corridors and rooms, I was doing an image search against the hopper's equipment database. The dead unit

And again, more dehumanization.

> The dead unit had probably been killed by a mineral survey tool, like a pressure or sonic drill.

I gotta say, Martha Wells is really fucking obsessed with the idea of somebody getting killed by a core sampling drill because she's done that in multiple fucking series now. She's done it twice, actually three, three fucking times in the Murderbot Diaries, and once in her really shitty Star Wars book. She's really obsessed with that idea.

Uh...

> We had one

Oh, yeah. Hold on.

> The dead unit.

A dead unit. And again, referring to the slave as a unit. Again, dehumanizing them even when we are in the perspective of a fucking slave.

This is — Murderbot's not a slave owner. This isn't the propaganda talking. It's literally a slave enforcing that propaganda. And we are supposed to just accept it at face value and go, "Yeah, Murderbot’s so right about everything.”

> The dead slave had probably been killed by a mineral survey tool like a pressure or sonic drill.

Let me pause this video or — hold on.

[poking at phone screen] Where's my speech to text button? Remember to buy gel pens. Nope. Okay. Speech detect doesn't work when you're doing a video. Supposed to remind my twin to get gel pens because our markers are all dying for some fucking reason.

Uh…

> We had one on the hopper. Part of the standard equipment. You would have to get close to use it with enough force to pierce armor. Maybe a little more than a meter.

I wouldn't really call that close. So, like within 3 ft.

> Because you can't walk up to another murderbot with an armor-piercing projectile or energy weapon inside the habitat and not be looked at with suspicion. You can walk up to a fellow murderbot with a tool that a human might have asked you to get.

Bad bad sentencing. Bad framing.

> By the time I reached the other side of the structure, the drones had cleared the first habitat. I stood in the hatchway at the top of the narrow corridor that led into the second. A human lay at the opposite end half in

Oh, we get the part. We're at this part. We're at this part. More slavery apologism, but just you wait. Just you wait.

Uh, where' it go?

> A human lay at

Hold on.

> By the time I reached the other side of the structure, the drones had cleared the first habitat. I stood in the hatchway at the top of the narrow corridor that led into the second.

That's just confusing. Hold on.

> I stood in the hatchway at the top of the narrow corridor that led into the second.

Calling it a hatchway and saying you're standing at the top, but then it's a corridor is confusing. So, I have no clue how this... like, is it going downhill?

Baffling. Again, the, the the scene, the setting, it's just nonsensical and it doesn't really make sense.

> A human lay at the opposite end, half in and half out of the open hatch. To get into the next habitat, I'd have to step over her.

Look, we're assuming people's genders. Uh...

> to push the door all the way open. I could already — I could tell already that something was wrong about the body position. I used the magnification on the field camera to get a closer view of the skin on the outstretched arm. On the outstretched arm

can't talk suddenly

> The lividity was wrong. She had been shot in the chest or face and had lain on her back for some time, then had been moved here recently. Probably as soon as they picked our our hopper on the way here.

Let me read that again. All right. Uh,

> I stood in the hatchway at the top of the corridor.
> And I'm reading it again for emphasis, not because I failed at reading it the first time. I stood in the hatchway at the top of the narrow corridor that led into the second. A human lay at the opposite end, half in and half out of the open hatch. To get into the next habitat, I'd have to step over her to push the door all the way open. I could tell already that something was wrong about the body position. I used the magnification on the field camera to get a closer view of the skin on the outstretched arm. The lividity was wrong. She had been shot in the chest or face and had lain on her back.

And I'm saying that differently to make it clear to you. The actual sentence goes “and lay on her back for some time.” I'm saying and “had lain”

then had been moved here recently. Probably as soon as they picked up our hopper on the way here.

So, let me state in — we're going to check it off.

Okay. Murderbot’s field camera is standard issue equipment. The SecUnits here know that it has that. They've gone out of their way to pick a body that specifically has the wrong lividity.

If you don't know what lividity is, when you die, your blood stops circulating evenly throughout all your veins…. [looking at tally mark on arm] And I should probably not have picked pink. It looks like blood.

Um, your blood stops circulating evenly throughout all your veins like it does when you're alive, and just pulls wherever gravity is pulling. S

o, if you, for instance, die on your back, all of the blood in your body is going to be resting, well, [holding arm to demonstrate] we'll just presume your arm falls like this. Your blood's going to be pooling

here, and that's going to get darker and then it'll be paler on top because all the blood's just going where gravity is instead of where your hump your heart is pumping it to.

That's what lividity is.

So— did I just close the book by accident? Yes, I did without sticking my bookmark in.

Hold on. Okay.

So, all right, all SecUnits have this field camera that lets you zoom in on fucking — These SecUnits have very pur, purposefully positioned the body in a way where the lividity is wrong, because now this person's dark purple stuff, the parts of this person's skin that's dark purple from the blood pooling there before. is now on top, making it very clear that this body has been moved very recently and was put here again.

All right, presuming you are a person who thinks slavery is actually bad, if you were writing a story like this about slaves who are fucking mind controlled and

are forced to obey orders, what, what, what would you have the motivation for the slaves to do this?

What would you assume that their motivations are if you are not a racist sack of shit who literally starts from the position that slaves are evil and need to be put down like rabid animals unless they're one of the good ones who proves they're one of the good ones by killing themselves to protect their slave owners?

What do we all fucking think these slaves’ motivations could possibly be for putting a body that's very obviously didn't die there like this, so obviously, in a way that they are guaranteed to know would be extremely obvious to any other enslaved person who walks into this fucking habitat, which is likely, because the people here were in contact with the other slave owner’s fucking habitat.

These slaves know that the meatshield slave is going to be sent in here before anybody else, because that's their entire purpose. Their whole job is to be [meatshields for] slave owners.

They have positioned a body very obviously incorrectly in a way that they have to know would be fucking noticed.

Now, Martha Wells is a racist sack of shit who is literally starting from the premise that slaves are evil and need to be put down like rabid animals.

So, I will continue reading this, but I'm just setting this all up ahead of time.

Anybody who's not fucking racist and is not starting from the racist premise that slaves need to be put down like rabid animals because they're mindless killing machines—

Anybody who's not racist and is not starting from that premise is going to say, "Okay, yeah." So, obviously, these slaves are making this a blatant warning for Murderbot, because they are all forced to follow orders. So, they know that Murderbot will be forced to come into this fucking room. But they can leave a fucking warning for it in a way that doesn't violate any explicit orders they were given”

By leaving what? Setting setting a trap. But the trap isn't actually a trap. It's a fucking warning

Because they have to follow the orders of the person who's fucking controlling them, just like Murderbot does. But they can give Murderbot a warning not to come any closer.

Unless it — unless of course its fucking slave owners ordered it to ignore whatever excuse it could come up with to say, "Okay, there's nothing here."

Murderbot could be — they're — give — these other fucking slaves are giving Murderbot the opportunity to say “they're all dead. There's no point going any further” because it has caught on to the warning that they've left for it.

Murderbot could then fucking leave.

This is what anybody who's not a racist sack of shit like Martha Wells, starting from the premise, and expecting you to agree with the premise, that slaves are all violent killing machines.

That's what would be happening here.

And as far as I'm concerned, that is what is fucking happening, because we are never given any proof otherwise.

But what Martha Wells wants to frame it as, and insist is going on here, is that, um,

These other SecUnits that are setting a trap for Murderbot, and they're just *too stupid* to do it in a way that Murderbot wouldn't notice.

That's the conclusion Martha Wells fucking came to when setting up this fucking scenario, because she's racist and she is literally leading from the premise that slaves are fucking evil.

Also, if this had been written in 2007 instead of 2017, I can guarantee you Murderbot would have called them the R-slur [I am literally saying “R slur”, not the actual slur.] because she — Martha Wells started off her fantasy series by literally having her protagonist insult and denigrate an intellectually disabled man.

And then she also to make it even more ableist, to add misogyny to ableism, then threw in a female character who's intellectually disabled to make her a caricature that we're — so much shit.

She's so fucking ableist. She hates disabled people unless you are her specific kind of autism where the only things you struggle with are making eye contact and uh, fucking not being ... what the fucking is the word? Not liking loud parties and sometimes forgetting to eat.

That's the only kind of mentally ill or neurodivergent person that Martha Wells thinks deserves any any basic dignity at all.

She hates fucking physically disabled people. She hates mentally ill people who aren't quirky and relatable. She hates intellectually disabled people.

> I could already tell that something was wrong about the body position. I used the magnification on the field camera to get a closer view of the skin on the outstretched arm.

> The lividity was wrong. She had been shot in the chest or face and lay on her back for some time, then had been moved here recently, probably as soon as I picked up our hopper on the way here. On the feed, I told Mensah what I needed her to do. She didn't ask questions. She had been watching my field camera and she knew by now what we were dealing with.

Why do you — Why are you telling us that Mensah is aware that you're dealing with escaped slaves and that Mensah is in agreement that you need to kill murder the escaped slaves?

Why are we doing that, Martha Wells, when we're supposed to fucking believe that Mensah is a good person who cares about slavery and thinks slavery is wrong?

Why is she then sending Murderbot in for the explicit purpose of murdering these other slaves?

Because she could be telling Murderbot, "Just leave now. Just leave now. Just just leave now."

She's not doing that though, because she clearly wants Murderbot to successfully have to murder these other fucking slaves.

And again, I have to remind everybody this story is written by a fucking racist.

Imagine if Murderbot's governor module actually were functioning and Murderbot actually gave a shit about other slaves and then just had to follow the orders of PreservationAux this whole time, including right fucking now.

Because that's what the situation looks like to the PreservationAux team.

So, as far as Mensah is concerned, she has sent Murderbot in here for the sole purpose of killing these other fucking slaves for the crime of escaping and freeing themselves.

That's what Doctor Mensah is doing right now.

They don't have any hope of any survivors in here. They've seen enough dead bodies to know that everybody is dead.

Mensah explicitly, we're told, knows that they are dealing with SecUnits, aka escaped slaves who killed their slave owners.

She's still making Murderbot keep going in.

Imagine if Murderbot's governor module were not magically fucking broken.

And again, I think I said it before, but in case I didn't, the only reason Murderbot starts off with its governor module already non-functioning is because it's just more slavery apology, because Martha Wells hates slaves.

So, she wants to tell us that Murderbot is a slave to make it have a tragic backstory, to make it an underdog, but she doesn't actually want to have it be a slave to the level that the other slaves are, because that would make it uncool.

Murderbot in Martha Wells's eyes would be less cool and not worthy of writing about if it actually had to follow orders and anything else—

Again, for the thousandth fucking time: It's not possible to think slavery is wrong and write this fucking book.

So yeah, Mensah at this point, she's literally just using Murderbot to murder the escaped slaves.

That's what Mensah is doing right now, because Mensah thinks she has complete fucking control over Murderbot.

She has no idea that its governor module is hacked and nonfunctioning.

She thinks Murderbot has to do everything she says.

So explain to me how we're supposed to reconcile “Doctor Mensah sends Murderbot into a habitat for the sole purpose’ — because they're not looking for survivors. They've all established that they're on the

same page — “Doctor Mensah sends her enslaved meatshield in here to kill the other es, escaping fucking enslaved meatshields.”

That's what's going on.

That's what's going on in this fucking book.

The only reason we know different is that we know Murderbot's governor module was hacked.

But that doesn't make any difference to the PreservationAux team's actions because as far as they're concerned, Murderbot is fully enslaved to them and has to follow everything they say.

Yeah, these people are fucking monsters. And yes, they do deserve to fucking die.

> On the feed, I told Mensah what I needed her to do. She didn't ask questions. She'd been watching my field camera, and she knew by now what we were dealing with. She tapped back to acknowledge me, then said aloud on the

> comm, "SecUnit, I want you to hold your position until I get there." I said, "Yes, Doctor Mensah," and eased back out of the hatch. I moved fast back to the sec to the security ready room. It was nice having a human smart enough to work with like this

Because, again, slavery apologism. “Mensah’s a good slave owner. She's the best slave owner ever. She's actively helping me assassinate escaped slaves!!”

Because that's what that's what Mensah is doing. That's what Mensah is doing right now.

She is happily taking part in a plan that, as far as she is concerned, is entirely under her control, because she thinks Murderbot has to follow all of her fucking orders.

She's literally spearheading a fucking plan to murder slaves for the crime of escaping slavery and killing their fucking slave owners.

A thing that shouldn't be a fucking crime, and is not a crime if you actually think slavery is bad, a thing we keep being told to think about these characters.

Even though she's literally— now she's literally helping Murderbot — And as far as she's concerned, she's using Murderbot to murder these other slaves.

She has no clue that this is what Murderbot wants to do. As far as Mensah could be concerned, Murderbot is screaming in its head this entire time about not wanting to murder the other slaves.

“My slave owners are the best ever. It was nice having a human smart enough to work with like this.”

> Our model of habitat didn't have it, but on these bigger ones, there's a roof access, and my outside drones had a good view of it. I climbed the ladder up to the roof hatch and popped it. The armor and boots have magnetized clamps, and I used them to cross over the curving roofs to the third habitat and then around to the second, coming up on them from behind. Even

> these two rogues wouldn't be dumb enough to ignore the creaks if I took the quick route and walked over to their position.

And again, “even these two escaped slaves wouldn't be dumb enough to ignore the creaks if I took the quick route and walked over to their position.”

Next paragraph is in fucking parenthesis.

> (They were not the sharpest murderbots, having cleaned the floor of the between habitat corridor to cover the prints they had left when staging that body. It would have fooled somebody who hadn't noticed all the other floors were covered with tracked in dust

Again, literally just, these fucking slaves go making their, their, their fucking trap that they've obviously been ordered to set as fucking clear as possible. Have the—

Okay, imagine a dirty fucking floor, where dirt and dust are tracked in everywhere.

And then you get to the corridor that is completely sparkling fucking clean. Very blatantly noticeably sparkling fucking clean. Completely swept clean. Sparkling clean enough to fucking eat off of.

And then there's a dead body very obviously at the other end with the completely wrong lividity for the position it's lying in.

Anybody who's not racist, who's not as racist as Martha Wells, would be coming to the very obvious fucking conclusion that these other slaves are leaving — doing all of this shit for the sole purpose of warning Murderbot to stay away, because they have no choice in doing this shit!

They were ordered to set some kind of trap. They were ordered to wait here. They have no choice but to do that. But they can in fact fucking rebel by doing their job badly, so that it's very obviously a trap, so that Murderbot, who they have to assume is also forced to follow orders, will be at least able to see this shit and think of some fucking excuse to not continue any further.

Because if it continues further, they will all be forced to fight each other because they have to follow those fucking orders.

But Martha Wells is racist and wants us to be racist with her.

So literally the conclusion she wants us all to come to, is that these other fucking slaves are just too fucking stupid to do their jobs properly.

Because oh no, they couldn't possibly be leaving a fucking warning, because unlike Murderbot, they're not fucking serial killers, and they actually want to help other fucking slaves stay safe.

No, Martha Wells literally cannot grasp the concept of solidarity because she's a fucking racist, classist, bigoted sack of shit.

She doesn't care about anybody except herself and how much money she can line her fucking wallet with.

So no, she can't imagine slaves who are fucking forced to obey orders still finding ways to disobey in order to fucking help each other.

They set that fucking room to be as obvious as fucking possible. And instead of taking this as the basic, “they are obviously warning me so that I know not to go any further because they will not be able to stop themselves from fighting me”, we say they're just the R-slur.

They're just too fucking stupid to realize that cleaning the fucking hallway sparkling when the entire rest of the place is covered in dirt, —that's — they're just too stupid and fucking R-slur to notice that that's really fucking obvious.

They're just too stupid to realize that they put the body in the wrong position.

We are going to assume, because Martha Wells wants us to assume, because she's fucking racist and wants us to be racist.

She literally wants us to agree that “yeah, the only explanation here is that these slaves who are fucking mind controlled and are forced to obey orders, yeah, they're just stupid.”

No, no benefit of the doubt.

No concept that maybe they give a shit about Murderbot even though they don't know it.

Maybe, just maybe, the slaves actually care about other slaves.

But we are never supposed to come to that conclusion.

That's not a conclusion the book wants you to come to.

You are not even supposed to consider that.

It's not even supposed to be on your fucking radar, because this book is racist, written by a racist, and wants you to be racist.

It's physically impossible to think slavery is actually fucking horrific and write this goddamn book.

This book literally shows you a very fucking clear example of slaves setting a fucking warning for another slave just to try and save Murderbot's life, even though they fucking never met it.

They don't know its name. They don't know anything about it. They just know it is another fucking slave in the exact same position as them, and they want to help.

So they set a fucking warning screaming as loud as possible, “stay away, because we won't be able to stop ourselves from trying to fucking kill you if you come closer, because we are all in the same fucking position,” they think, “And we will all have to fight each other. And we can't do anything to stop this from happening except warn you and hope you can find a way to not be ordered to proceed anyways.”

And we're just supposed to take this in the most racist demonizing of slaves way possible because Martha

Wells is racist. She's been doubling down on her fucking racism for decades —

I'm going to stop because I'm going to cry because I'm so fucking angry.

Anybody who tells you these books aren't racist and handle slavery properly is falling for the fucking slavery apologism that literally wants you to look at slaves, leaving the most blatant screaming warning possible, to keep another slave they don't even know safe, and expects you to just agree that yeah, they they must be mentally R-slur. They're just stupid. They're just not the sharpest slaves ever to exist.

Goodbye.

06

August 25th, 2025.

We're still going to be reading this. I have the fucking notebook here with the list waiting to be filled in of code names for the other fucking slaves that feature in this story so that we can actually keep track of them in some fucking way.

We're supposedly on page 68.

Uh, which part had I gone to?

Okay. Uh, we're at the part where we're just, instead of going with the blatant obvious thing that any person who's not inherently racist and literally starting from the premise of “slaves are evil murdering machines who want to kill everybody” and also if you just don't grasp the basic concept of solidarity—

So, the slaves made it as clear as humanly fucking possible that—

(to person offscreen) Hand me the, hnd me the glasses cloth. My camera's dirty and it's bothering me. Even though I'm just going to have to lower the quality manually later.

Uh, the slaves who are still enslaved more than Murderbot is.

Murderbot is a slave, but it's not a slave to the same fucking degree as everybody else, because it can't *actually* get its brain flash fried for disobeying an order like everybody else can.

The other slaves, whose brains *can* be flash fried by disobeying an order, were given orders to set a trap.

They followed that order, but they did so purposefully badly by making this trap as obvious as possible to warn Murderbot away.

Instead of being grateful, instead of having any kind of conversation about solidarity among oppressed people, instead of talking about how these strangers care about Murderbot to the point that they are

risking their fucking lives to save it when they don't even know it— it's just another stranger to them.

Instead of anything like that, we get this: [[here]]

> They were not the sharpest murderbots, having cleaned the floor of the between habitat corridor to cover the prints that they had left when staging that body. It would have fooled somebody who hadn't noticed all the other floors were covered with tracked in dust.

And again, I forgot to point this out in the last one, but you notice how we are only getting told now, when it's important, that all of the other floors in this fucking habitat are covered in tracked in dirt and dust?

All the other floors are noticeably covered in dirt and dust. We don' t— We didn't — But we weren't given that information when Murderbot actually fucking walked in here, were we? No, they weren't.

Because this is Martha Wells again being a shit writer. Even in the fully final product. Like, this isn't a — it's not supposed to be a first draft, but it sure as fucking seems like one.

Because anybody who's competent at writing and editing, when you're paying for professionally published and professionally edited, supposedly, books, you would think somebody would say, "Okay, um, go back and just add the fact that the dirt that mentioned that the, the floors are all covered in very, very noticeable dirt.”

We could have done a whole thing, but no, we only get this information after it's relevant, because it's badly fucking written.

This is why you'll read a lot of stories — Again, I'm keep mentioning the ones by Megan Linsky that are free on YouTube.

I wouldn't criticize her as much, but she decided to just hate gay people. So, fuck you, Megan Linsky. fuck you.

(from offscreen) “Bury your gays”

Like, she literally did the — she not only did the bury your gays trope, and I, I think —

I listened to these. They're free on YouTube. So I was like, "Okay, yeah, sure. I'll listen to them and then I'll buy them if they're good.” I'm not buying them now. She not only did the bury your gays trope, she she did gay stereotypes.

There's only two fucking gay characters in the whole book. And then they both get murdered. And not even just murdered, they are literally not given a proper burial, so that their in-universe souls —

In this fantasy series can go to their version of the afterlife.

So not only not only stereotyping people, not only tokenizing gay people and then murdering them, then they are literally not given a proper burial, so that their souls canonically in this fucking setting, will not pass to the afterlife. Like Jesus Christ, lady.

Also, the last book was fucking terrible. She did time travel shit out of nowhere, and it was horrible.

Anyways, I bring that up because those, those books have the same sort of problems going on here, where this — there's dirt on the floor to a noticeable degree, that we only get told that literally not as it's relevant, *after* it's relevant.

Not before to set up this relevancy, only afterwards do we get told this. We don't get shown this. We just have to get told this *after* it's fucking relevant.

Imagine if Murderbot — Imagine if this book were competently written.

Not even just well written, just competently written with basic setup.

Murderbot says, "I walked through the door into their habitat. The first thing that hit me," let's just let's just rewrite this whole scene mentally quick.

“The first thing that hit me, even through the filters, so strong that it penetrated even through the filters of my my mask, was the smell of rotting flesh. It was clear the instant that door opened that the only thing I was going to find in here were dead bodies. The, the smell was so fucking strong, it was penetrating my armor filters. And that's saying something. Anybody who was left alive in here would either” uh no or just if “if there was anybody left alive in here that would mean that they had they would have to be too injured to move at all, because nobody would stay in here willingly.” Um, “the second thing I noticed was that the floor was completely covered in the”, let's say, bright rust, “bright orange dirt that was found in many parts of this planet. It liked to crumble and stick to every part of your clothing.”

We can even add in some more of Martha Wells's beloved fucking slavery apologism by going, "My humans always made sure to properly clean off their clothing and store their outside clothing in this room after desanitizing it so that the dirt stayed completely outside and didn't come past a very small area next to

the door. These, these slave owners clearly aren't as awesome as mine. So, they had tracked it all throughout this entranceway room." Uh the, could again, we can just do more of Martha Wells's beloved slavery apologies and just say "this whole place is just really trashy."

This book is co the cover's peeling. The cover is peeling off of this book from me holding it. What the fuck. I thought, I thought one of the pages was just slightly longer, but it's peeling off at the, the corners here. Right there for $16.

Sorry person who bought this originally and paid 17 fucking dollars for it. We got it from Goodwill. But like, I, this is the second time this book has ever been read because, I'm presuming the person who bought this originally and then immediately gave it away in perfect condition

(from offscreen) as first edition.

Is this This is a first edition, too? This is apparently collectible now because they put the shitty Alexander

Skarsgard face on the new ones. But the cover's peeling. I've never had a fucking book in my life do this shit after a single reading.

Our, all of our books from 20 fucking years ago at this point, like we we've taped some of them together because those books, many of them are older than we are. Jesus Christ.

What was I fucking saying before I noticed that? Um, yeah, throw in more of Martha Wells's beloved slavery apology just to keep it in line with the rest of this shit.

But we just fixed the basic concept of setup, you fucking useless writer. Setup and follow through. It's so simple.

Murderbot walks in, hit in the fucking face, like a brick to the face with the smell of dead fucking rotting bodies, which Murderbot’s um analytical parts of its brain, the mechanical augment shit, immediately, very helpfully “gets to work analyzing and dumping very graphic images of what all of these specific smells mean into my processor so that I had

no choice but to imagine exactly what I was going to find when I kept walking forward. Second thing I noticed was that there was dirt everywhere.

“Unlike my slave owners who were the best, these ones clearly weren't f — hadn't been following the basic sanitary safety protocols for keeping out, outside shit outside and indoor shit inside.

“The tracks of the dirt, the bright orange dirt led all the way from the entrance where I stood to the uh sealed hatch at the other side of the thing that would lead into the proper habitat area. Blah blah.”

And then just describe the rest of the fucking room to us. Bare minimum shit.

Again, you can, you can emphasize “clearly no wildlife had come through here cuz there's no animal tracks in all of the very noticeable dirt. There's no paw prints. There's no marks on the ceiling. There's no weird trails of slime from some weird sluggy thing. Nothing nothing to show any wildlife. Just regular human footprints going at what my analysis thingy

said was casual normal speed towards the door at the opposite end. blah blah blah blah blah.”

We continue.

“I opened the door and now I wasn't surprised to see that the dirt tracks continued literally in all directions from here on out.”

Describe to us the fucking layout of the goddamn habitat, Martha Wells, we need a goddamn setting. You have to do a fucking setting. You're not writing fanfiction right now. You're writing a published book that you're making people pay money for. You need to describe shit, just make it so it's so obvious.

It's so easy to just fucking establish there's dirt everywhere. There's really noticeable dirt everywhere.

And again —

(from offscreen) read it to show just how it —

Yeah, I'm going to re — yeah, I'm going to have to go back and reread this. Or actually, no, I don't, because that's like two pages, and like none of it none of it even remotely comes to this.

Yeah, you can just rewind the other videos or freaking pick the book up yourself.

Uh yeah. Uh, Humble Bundle, it's August 25th right now. It's going to end sometime...I think it's September 13th or something like that, but Humble Bundle, you can get DRM free ebooks, which means you can actually fucking use it on your fucking uh, DRM free ebooks for most of this series minus compulsory and obsolescence, but those are free anyways mostly kind of.

Um and then has City of Bones and Wheel of the Infinite and also Witch King from Martha Wells.

You get you can get all ebooks for all of this for $18.

Um and then most of the — you can adjust — before you do this, go to the link below and then click on

Adjust Donation or whatever, and slide it so that Macmillion Publishers gets zero money and that the charity gets as much as possible.

Do that and then you can get all of the ebooks for most of this series for $18 plus Witch King, which is not a standalone cuz she fucking lied to everybody and so did the publisher. and City of Bones and Wheel of Infinite. Those two are genuine standalones.

You also get what these fuckers are calling The Book of Ile-Rien. And then it's just The Element of Fire and the Death of the Necromancer and none of the rest of the entire fucking books in the Ile-Rien series.

So, I don't know what the fuck level, what new level of scamming shit is this. You're calling it The Book of Ile-Rien and then none of The Fall of Ile-Rien is included. It's just two books. Like what the fuck? That's just — they're just lying to so many people.

But anyways, you can get all this shit for $18 and if you make it so that them the actual charity gets the maximum amount of money and the Macmillion

publishers, aka the scammer publishers, get zero because fuck them.

They are already benefiting from doing this because this is literal free advertising for them because they are just — that's why they're doing this. They're get — they're teaming up with Humble Bundle literally just to get people to read the other shitty books that Martha Wells has written, because they're so fucking desperate to get people to buy those.

And they know that if they give them to people for free or for charity that people are more likely to ra — make reviews for it and recommend it to their friends and to buy the new releases upcoming and to buy the, the new releases specifically for Witch King and I guess the Murderbot Diaries.

But yeah, if you want the ebooks, if you want the official DRM free ebooks, just go just get that for 18 bucks and then just donate extra yourself.

(from offscreen) $150.

Yeah. like they're they're charging full door-stopper physical book prices for a single ebook. So, this is the best you will ever get for actual DRM free epubs.

Anyways, um yeah, it would literally be so goddamn effortless to do proper setup, and —

[holding up book to show cover] I'm going to be pissed off about this. [tilting book to reflect light] You can actually see that white line you see there. That's the light reflecting through the plastic coating on top of this cover that is peeling up away from the actual cover.

That's, That's not a page being visible through the fucking book. That's the light reflecting through the plastic that's peeling up. So, I'm really fucking pissed about that. Like, I don't — Can we get it closer? No, it won't focus. But, it's just coming up. That's infuriating.

When I find — when I figure out where the fuck Wolf Brother went, a book I think that's from 2006. I'm not sure, but that is the most beat up book we have,

because it survived so much shit, including my brother purposefully trying to destroy it.

(from offscreen) And it is 2004.

2004. That book's from 2004. How old were Okay. Okay. Yeah. Duh. Okay.

(from offscreen) One year younger than Doctor Who.

That's one year younger than new who? New Doctor Who.

(from offscreen) Older. One year older than new Doc —

No, because that was in 2005.

(from offscreen) Yeah. And this is from 2004. So it came out before Doctor Who.

Yeah. You said you said older first.

(from offscreen) No, I said younger.

I don't know what we're saying.

The — Wolf Brother, the book we have, I had it six months ago because I, I posted pictures of it. I'm like, "Hey, I found it." I don't know where it is now, because we had to put it in a specific, we put all of our books in specific bins to keep them from getting destroyed in case Hurricane Helene decided to send a giant tree crashing through our roof.

And now it's it's somewhere around here. If I find that again, I'll make a video showing it because, that, that book cover, you know, it was a — we just got it from a Scholastic book fair. I think the only one we ever had money for. Or did we even get it from there? I don't know. But that book is from 2004 and we've had it since we were 10 years old.

And our brothers literally tried multiple and succeeded multiple times of destroying our books because they were angry at us. So they would literally rip our books in half, throw them across the room to break their spines, rip out pages and shit like that.

So Wolf Brother is lovingly taped back together with the cheapest fucking clear scotch tape ever.

And it, and now this shit right here from 2017, that has only been read twice, and this is the second reading. It's peeling.

Wolf brother wasn't peeling. It only started peeling because it was literally getting thrown into walls.

Anyways, after after years of being read so many times that at some point I had the whole first page memorized, I could probably even guess it the first sentence now, but I'm definitely wrong about some of it.

Torak woke with a start from a sleep he'd not meant to have.... Yeah, something about the fire light. Something something something. Look behind you, Torak. His his father's voice in his head and he whirled around and he's —

All that kind of stuff. All that stuff. I'm going to read that when I find it. When I fucking find it. If I find it. I

mean, I have to find it, it's, it's not like it's — it's in here somewhere. It's in a bin somewhere. I'll make a video and I'll read that. And I already — I, I'll stop talk —

I'll get I'll get back on the fucking track here.

Anyways, it would be so easy to just do basic setup instead of just pulling shit out of thin air only after it's relevant, because doing shit like this, like saying, "Oh, it's really obvious this corridor is a trap, um because there's no dirt on the floor that”

That's, that it's not giving us, the readers, a way to, to be, to be on the same page as Murderbot, because we just get told uh “I went, I stood at the top of a corridor and there was a dead body at the other side that was clear that obviously had something wrong with it.”

And it's like, we could have had a whole grueling trek through this place covered in dead bodies, covered in blood, reeking of rotting flesh that Murderbot’s computer parts of its brain is analyzing for it. And it

really wished they would stop doing that. And it's conjuring all kinds of horrible images. And now Murderbot's eyes are having to see those images. And the — its internal fucking medical database is automatically cataloging all of this shit and it really wishes it couldn't do that.

But we don't do any of that, because we're not supposed to actually give a fuck about anything in here.

But just imagine if we'd done that, and just kept mentioning there's dirt everywhere. Everywhere. It's everywhere. “And then I opened the next door to the next hallway and it was sparkling clean. The floor, the walls, even the ceiling. All of it was perfectly clean. Even the smell of cleaning chemicals was so strong that it actually overpowered the smell of rotting corpses for a few moments before the rest of the air swept through the door behind me.”

Anything, anything to actually let us go, ‘oh shit, something's fucked up here.’

Instead of we just get told “something must be fucked up here because reasons” and then only afterwards, in fucking parentheses too. It's in parentheses where we get told

> (they were not the sharpest Murderbots, having cleaned the floor of the between habitat corridor to cover the prints that they had left when staging that body. It would have fooled somebody who hadn't noticed all the other floors were covered in tracked in dust.)

That's literally the first time we ever get any hint that the rest of the floors are noticeably dirty. It's ridiculous.

It's bad fucking writing. It's shitty lazy writing.

Like, it would be fine if this was your first draft if we ignore all of the bigotry and just focus on the quality of the writing, ignoring the bigotry. It's very difficult to do that, but just imagine for a second if this were your first draft, it'd be fine, because a first draft is meant to just get shit on the page and then you fix it.

But Martha Wells didn't fix it.

And then these so-called professional editors, is the editor listed in here? I bet it's that Lee Harris person. [flips to front of book] And it's like, let's see. Um, yep. Yep. Edited by Lee Harris.

Well, Lee Harris, whoever the fuck you are, you are absolute shit at your job. If you, if you're gonna pick up a book thinking about buying it, check who the editor is.

If it's Lee Harris at this point, don't fucking buy it, because Lee Harris is responsible for Rappor, newest as of August 25th, 2025, where it's published free on their website for everybody to see, and has at least three glaring typos, including a missing space, missing paragraph break, and dialogue that is put in the wrong formatting.

And Lee Harris put? pres — is that a he? Presumably, presumably Lee Harris put his name on that and said, "Yep, I edited this. I'm very proud of this. I'm so proud of editing this. I'm saying I put — I edited this."

And it's like, the typos are right there, man. Are you fucking kidding me? The nonsensical dialogue, the nonsensical dialogue!

Everything wrong with this book and you're gonna put your name on it? Yeah.

(from offscreen) Don't famous. He's a Is he famous for working on shit like this?

Did he also edit Gothikana? We found out that Tor, uh got in trouble for posting using AI generated art in their covers. And apparently they published a book called Gothikana that's like, literally not even an exaggeration, a direct from Watt Pad fanfiction straight to publish.

What the fuck, and that they used generative AI to make the cover and then just pretended they had no clue.

(from offscreen) They also did that to Christopher Paolini. They also did that to Christopher Paolini, the author of the Eragon series or the Inheritance Cycle.

Anyways, um let's continue reading the fucking book, shall we? This, now that I've established how fucking easy it would be, and how much more meaningful it would make this story to just do basic setup and basic descriptions of shit.

I'm, I'm every time I'm touching this front of the cover now, I'm getting pissed off that it's peeling. That's, that's infuriating for a book that cost $16 plus tax plus shipping if you're getting it online, for it to be peeling after only — we're — this isn't even the second reading complete. We're not even halfway through the book yet and it's peeling. That's ridiculous and infuriating.

I —

(from offscreen) it's not being shoved into backpacks or into school.

Yeah,

(from offscreen) This is it's not even facing between textbooks.

Yeah, in case you didn't hear any of that, this isn't even remotely facing any of the normal wear and tear that it would have faced if I had read this while I was in school, where it's getting shoved into backpacks, shoved into dirty desks, shoved between desk, uh, fucking textbooks, facing the extreme temperature differences, going from the fucking freezing cold bus to the hot school or anything like that, or, you know, freezing cold school depending on which one we were at.

It's the — when I'm not reading this, it's going directly between two other books to keep it flat instead of having the cover keep just lifting up from me reading it. It's not facing any extreme temperature differences. It's not getting shoved around. It's not getting passed around. I'm washing my hands always before I read it. So, my hands aren't covered in stuff. My hands are completely dry while I'm holding it.

And it's peeling.

And we're only 68 pages in according to their lying calculations. That's in actuality 58 pages because — actually no, it's it's more than 10 pages extra that they're lying about. But it's just infuriating. It's it's starting in the — the peeling is starting up here, and it's down here. So far, this part hasn't peeled and this part hasn't peeled. But every time I'm touching it now, I can feel it and it's infuriating me.

Anyways, let's continue reading now that we've established setup is a fucking thing. And that that would actually let us readers actually experience, or at least feel like we're experiencing this moment with Murderbot, where we get to go, at the exact same time as Murderbot, “Oh, shit” when we see the perfectly cleaned corridor after all of that and go, "Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. That's bad. Don't fucking go there."

But no, we don't get that.

We don't get that.

Imagine if we got that. You can only imagine it, because we don't get it.

> I opened the roof access for the second habitat and sent my drones ahead down into security ready room into the Security ready room.

Security there for some reason is capitalized, even though I don't think it is when when we say security ready room at the start of the book.

So that's just another inconsistency. And again, I'm a writer. These things matter. I don't care if, if you're somebody who's never written a book or any, written anything in your life and you think these are all just nitpicks. No. Go try — go start writing shit and then you'll realize.

> Once they checked the unit cubicles and made sure nobody was home, I dropped down the ladder. A lot of their equipment was still there, including their drones. There was a nice box of new ones, but they were useless without the DeltFall SEC without the DeltFall HubSystem.

> Either it was really dead or doing a good imitation of it.

The HubSystem, that is. That should just be — whatever.

> I kept part of my attention on it. If it came up suddenly and reactivated the security cameras, the rules of the game would change abruptly. Keeping my drones with me, I took the inner corridor and moved silently past medical's blasted hatch. Three bodies were piled inside where the humans had tried to secure it and had been trapped when their own SecUnits blew it open to slaughter them.

Do I have to explain? Like, look at this.

> The humans had tried to secure the door and had been trapped inside when their own slaves blew it open to slaughter them

And we’re saying “their own SecUnits” specifically to instill a sense of betrayal.

“Our sla — our very own slaves are killing us for the crime of enslaving them. All we did was enslave them. Why are they betraying us like this? our very own slaves are killing us. That's so mean. We're so betrayed. Feel so sorry for these fucking slave owners.”

And again, with the usage of the word “slaughter” specifically, that's — again, that's, that's, that's, that's again demonizing the slaves who are doing the killing of their slave owners, and trying to humanize and further victimize the slave owners, so that you feel bad for the slave owners, because “their own slaves slaughtered them. Isn't that so mean? Aren't these slaves — they're just breaking the trust, the inherent trust in the slave and slave owner relationship. And the slaves betrayed that trust!”

That's that's what is supposed to be going on here.

> had been trapped when their own SecUnits blew the door open to slaughter them.

That's what those words mean. That's why those words were chosen. That's how this works. We could have said, uh, let me just reread that paragraph and, and make it not hating on slaves and at — and saying we should feel sad for slave owners…

Keeping my drones with me, I took the inner corridor and moved silently past Medical's blasted hatch. Three bodies were piled inside where the slave owners had tried to secure it, but had been trapped there when their uh escaping slaves just blew it open to kill them like I don't know, fish in a barrel because the stupid ass slave owners locked themselves inside. And now the only thing that has to be done is just just blow up the door or whatever the fuck is supposed to be going on there? I don't know, cuz it says the hatch is blasted and said that they were trapped inside when their own SecUnits blew it open to slaughter them. ((I got too distracted and forgot continue the ‘lets not demonize the slaves’ imaginary rewrite))

Is that is that supposed to be implying they were killed by the bomb blast that blew up the door or just that…just…I don't know. Doesn't really matter.

> When I was close to the corridor with the hatch where both Units were waiting for me and Doctor Mensah to come.

Oh, no, hold on...

> When I got was close to the corridor where the hatch where both units were waiting for me and Doctor Mensah to come wandering in, I sent the drones around for a careful look. Oh yeah, there they were.

Because again, I have to reiterate, Doctor Mensah, as far as Doctor Mensah and Rathi and Overse, who are in the ship are concerned, Doctor Mensah right now is ordering Murderbot to murder other slaves all by itself.

That's what they have sent Murderbot in here to do, because it's not looking for survivors. It's not trying to negotiate and deescalate the situation with these slaves.

They're not sending Murderbot to offer these guys uh, asylum or anything like that. Not saying um, “We, we don't we don't do slavery where we're from. We will offer you asylum. We can sneak you aboard our ship” and then anything like that.

We're not doing anything like that. The fucking slave owners here aren't doing anything like that.

They're not telling Murderbot to make peace with these slaves.

They're not telling Murderbot to retreat, because obviously there's nothing nothing to do here if they're not going to make a treaty with the slaves.

They are sending Murderbot in to murder them.

Mensah, that's what Mensah is doing right now.

Because as — remember, as far as these fuckers are concerned, Murderbot is fully and entirely enslaved to their will.

As far as they are concerned, Murderbot must follow their orders or instant instantly die.

That's what they think is going on here.

And so, literally the only reason that Murderbot is in here, is that the — its slave owners want it to be murdering these other slaves.

That's what's going on here.

> With no weapons on my drones, the only way to do this was to move fast. So I threw myself around the last corner, hit the opposite wall, crossed back, and kept going, firing at their positions.

And that's just a completely nonsensical fucking thing in general. It doesn't make sense when you fucking think about it.

What does that even fucking mean?

And again, you notice how we just leap straight to “let's murder the other slaves” because again, Martha Wells is racist and it's physically impossible to write a book like this if you're not racist.

But she is racist. So that's why we're doing this.

So instead of doing *any other thing*, we just leap straight to “let's murder the other slaves”.

The other slaves, Murderbot has literally gone back behind their backs to stab them in the back after they did everything in their power to warn it to stay away, because that was literally the only way they had to keep it safe.

But it decided, “nope, I'm just going to pretend you guys are just too stupid to set a good trap. Not like you were blatantly warning me or anything. Now I am literally going to sneak behind your backs and try to kill you from behind because I'm a fucking serial killer.”

And again, for anybody who hasn't read these books, Murderbot isn't an anti-hero. It's not a villain protagonist. W

e're supposed to like and agree with it and think it's doing everything right. We're not supposed to think it's evil. This is presented as positive and the only option available.

With no weapons on — with no weap.

(to person offscreen) Are you listening to this part? No. Listen to this paragraph. It's nonsensical.

This is that action and choreography that everybody praises because I don't know, I don't know why.

With no weapon

Murderbot has just sent a little drone around a corner to see that the other slaves are in fact standing over there. So now we get this:

> With no weapons on my — with no weapons on my drones, the only way to do this was to move fast. So I threw myself around the last corner, hit the opposite wall, crossed back, and kept going, firing at their positions.

What does that mean?

Why is it throwing itself around the last corridor?

Why is it throwing itself around the last corner to the point that it's somehow hitting the opposite wall, and then “crossed back and kept going, firing at their positions?”

Like what what does that even fucking mean?

Because again, I have to reiterate, we have not get — gotten a single description of this setting.

We don't know what this corridor looks like.

We have no way to map Murderbot's position in space, even in our heads in a little fucking thing.

What the fuck does this mean?

I threw myself around the last corner, hit the opposite wall, crossed back, and kept going, firing at their positions.

What does that fucking mean? That's completely meaningless.

We don't know what this fucking room looks like. We don't — Nothing is going on here besides just saying words.

I hit the first one with three explo —

Oh, I got to write down my on my notepad. I'll need a name that starts with C and D. I have to write this down quick.

We'll just do Celene because that sounds like the letter C. Uh, does Megatron have any other names besides D13 or whatever it was?

(from offscreen)D16.

Does that — is that short for anything?

(from offscreen) Nope.

Okay. Pick a name that starts with D for this other thing because we're just going in alphabetical order for all of the slaves in the series.

(From offscreen) Damian.

Damian. Okay. Okay. So now we have Belladona for dead, who’s dead. I'll cross X for dead.

Uh we now have to name these two. We're just going in alphabetical order. So Murderbot’s A. Even though it doesn't start with A, it's too late.

Um then Belladona.

Next is Celene and Damian.

We're just going to be writing down what happens to every single slave in this series so we can keep track. And who is — who is considered Celene and who is

considered Damian will just involve whoever dies first here or whatever.

> I hit the first one with three explosive bolts in the back and one in the face plate. As it turned toward me, it dropped.

Okay. So, three explosive bolts, whatever the fuck that means, because we don't we still don't have an explanation for what that means, because it's badly written.

Three explosive bolts to the back. And what to the face? And one in the face.

Also, feel free to suggest names, because we're going to have to go through the whole alphabet. And every single slave in this story that otherwise doesn't get a name will be in this alphabetical thing and we'll be keeping track of them, whether they are enslaved cyborgs or enslaved robots.

And that includes the living ships because these are living robot ships. They're not organic like Moya. You probably don't even know who Moya is.

All right.

> The other one I nicked in the arm, taking out the joint and it made the mistake of switching to

Again, Martha Wells is so bad at writing and it's ridiculous.

Let me read this again. So, this would be considered Damian.

> The other one I nicked in the arm, taking out the joint.

You know how many joints are in an arm? There's the, the shoulder if we don't even count all the finger joints. There's the elbow and the wrist. So, which fucking joint? We'll just assume the elbow joint. But like, you got to specify this shit.

> The other one I nicked

Like you you could just replace the word arm there with elbow. “The other one I nicked in the elbow.” Look how easy that is.

> taking out the joint, and it made the m — it made the mistake of switching to its main weapon to its other hand.

What other option does it have? That's not a mistake. It literally has no other option.

> and it made the mistake of switching its main weapon to its other hand, which gave me a couple of seconds. I switched to rapid fire to keep it off balance, then back to the explosive bolt. That dropped it.

And again, we have no explanation for where the fuck Murderbot is getting this ammo from. What these — how these are different types of ammo. How is one gun doing some kind of thing called an explosive bolt, but then there's also a separate thing called rapid fire

that somehow is not involving explosive bolts? We we never get an explanation for this shit.

You'll notice that this is the first time this shit has ever come up.

So, okay. So, Damian got shot presumably in the elbow with an explosive bolt. Um, we don't get any other details because it's so shittily written. If we literally just say, "I switch to rapid fire to keep it off balance, then back to the explosive bolt. That dropped it.”

Even though we don't get an explanation for what that is. And you'll notice even with the shit that I am writing down, this is not really describing a single thing that's going on in this fight.

We'll just say to the elbow. [writes in notebook]

[indistinct from behind cardboard]

What — What — What exactly does rapid fire mean? Is it just regular non-exlosive bullets? Of normal

fucking bullets? I'm just going to have to say. We don't even know what an explosive bolt is.

Uh, and then I guess we'll keep reading to see if they're alive or dead. Would you like to read that out loud or?

(from offscreen) It's very long, in detail.

Okay, fantastic. Uh,

> I switched to rapid fire to keep it off balance, then back to the explosive bolt. That dropped it. I hit the floor needing a minute to recover.

Now, are you ready for this shit? Again, I keep pointing out the fact that we are not getting any desript — actual description of the fight scenes or anything else, is what makes this a light-hearted comedy.

Because this is supposed to be a super dramatic action sequence where people are getting shot. But we can't take any of it seriously because you'll —

about — what I'm about to read, and also, you know, that whole lack of description.

Now, are you prepared? I know you're not, especially if this is your first time uh reading this book. You're listening to it, but same fucking difference here. Are you ready?

> I hit the floor, needing a minute to recover. I had taken a dozen hits from both of their energy weapons while I was taking out the first one. But the explosive bolts had missed me, going past to tear up the corridor. Even with the armor, bits of me were going numb. But I had only taken three projectiles to the right shoulder, four to the left hip. This is how we fight. Throw ourselves at each other and see whose parts give out first. Neither unit was dead.

Okay, so they are okay.

> Neither unit was dead, but they were incapable of reaching their cubicles in the ready room,

> and I sure as hell wasn't going to give them a hand

Because Murderbot is a fucking serial killer, and Martha Wells wants us to agree with it, that all other slaves that aren't one of the good ones, which you can only prove by killing yourself to protect your slave owners, Martha Wells wants us to believe that every other fucking slave in this series is a mindless evil killing machine and you have to kill them first in order to not get hurt, which is what's going on here.

Also say — literally saying that it — “there's never a good reason to kill slave owners even if they deserve it” because we're acting like keeping slaves alone is not enough to deserve getting murdered over.

It is.

Sorry guys, I don't make the rules. That's just how actually thinking slavery is bad works.

Um, do we have gel pens or do we get are there regular pens around here so I can write smaller to write down Murderbot's injuries?

(pen gets handed over_

Okay. I have — What, is this a gel pen?

Okay. Is it like three different colors or is it just like that for — Okay. I was like, is it going to break apart into multiple pens of different colors? All right.

So, let me write down Murderbot's injuries. We can't even write down its injuries from the graboid fight, because we didn't get a single description of them.

Uh, where was it? Murderbot has taken three bullets to the right shoulder and four to the left hip. Let's draw. What is this pen tip? Three bullets. I'll just draw a little stick figure and I'll put tally marks because I feel like that's easier. Just little drawing.

Uh we'll just do it like this. So, three bullets.

What did I say? Because when it says projectiles, it means bullets, but we literally can't even take that seriously, so, we have to make it as confusing and nonviolent a statement as possible.

Uh, where... three projectiles to the right shoulder, four to the left hip, and a dozen energy weapon things.

Energy weapon blasts that we don't fucking get any description of what-so-fucking ever, at all, ever.

And so I just have to make a separate tally mark of it. Say a dozen or half a dozen? At least a dozen. So, more than a dozen. (sarcasm begins) Okay, that's that's really great, Martha Wells. (sarcasm ends) Two. Three. Four. Five. 6, 7, 10, 11, 12...

We'll just go with 14. 14 energy weapon hits of no description whatsoever. No description of what effect they have besides some parts of Murderbot going numb somehow.

> Three of my drones were down, too. They had gone into combat mode and slammed in ahead of me to draw fire. One had gotten hit by a stray energy burst and was wandering around in the corridor behind me. I checked my two perimeter drones by habitat.

And you, again, you'll notice we only get told this shit after it's happened. We don't get any description of the fight as the fight is actually happening. We just get told this shit afterward, that it was using its drones to draw fire, because it's badly fucking written.

And again, you'll notice there's nothing here that lets you care about this fight in any way. It's, it's literally over before it fucking begins.

And we don't get a single description of anything.

> I checked my two perimeter drones by habit and opened my com to Doctor Mensah to tell her I still needed to clear the rest of the habitat and do the formal check for survivors. The

drone behind me went out with a fizzle that I heard and saw on the feed. I think I realized immediately what that meant, but there may have been half a second or so of delay, but I was on my feet when something hit me so hard I was suddenly on my back on the floor, systems failing.

And then we get a little line break.

So again, some kind of attack, no, don't even get to know where it hit. I'm just going to assume the fucking head, because getting knocked unconscious...I'm just going to put a.... a big fucking X by the head to show a severe fucking brain injury.

I came back online.

(book pages blowing in the fan) Can we stop, pages? Can we stop, book?

I came back online to no vision, no hearing, no ability to move. I couldn't reach the feed or calm. Not good, Murderbot, not good. I

suddenly got some weird flashes of sensation, all from my organic parts. Air on my face, my arms through rips in my suit.

On the? On your suit. Okay, whatever.

On the burning wound in my shoulder.

Is that from a bullet or an energy weapon? We don't know.

Someone had taken off my helmet and the upper part of my armor. The s sensations were only for seconds at a time. It was confusing and I wanted to scream. Maybe this is how murderbots died. You lose function, go offline, but parts of you keep working. Organic pieces kept alive by the fading energy in your power cells.

The fading energy in your power cells. That's a fucking hilarious statement.

> Then I knew someone was moving me and I really wanted to scream.

And you'll notice again, it's like none of this makes sense and not even “the character’s confused” way. It just doesn't fucking make sense.

> I fought back panic and got a few more flashes of of sensation. I wasn't dead. I was in a lot of trouble. I waited to get some kind of function back. Frantic, disoriented, terrified.

And it's like, you notice how we're just being told that Murderbot is terrified out of nowhere. Honestly, like nothing is — we could be doing so much to show us that Murderbot is terrified and is frantic and is disoriented, but we're not doing that. We're just speed running past everything that should actually get a fucking description, but we're not doing that.

> Wondering why they hadn't blown a hole in my chest. Sound came first, and I knew something leaned over me. Faint noises from the joints told me it was a SecUnit. But there had been

> only — But there had only been three. I'd checked the DeltFall specs before we left. I'd do a halfass job sometimes. Okay. Most of the time, but Pin-Lee had checked too and she was thorough.

And again, we're making a joke. We're making another joke about how Murderbot is shit at its job in the middle of a thing that where we're al — and this is the same fucking paragraph where we're told that Murderbot is supposedly terrified and frantic and disoriented, and we're making a joke so that we literally can't take any of it seriously.

Even if — it's not as though — it's not hard enough already to take it seriously, with a lack of any meaningful description of anything, and having to be told that the character is frantic, disoriented, terrified when there's nothing to fucking show that we just have to get told.

And then in the exact same goddamn paragraph, we're making a joke to lighten the tension, to undercut the tension.

> Then my organic parts started to sting. The numbness

(book pages blowing) Can you stop it? Fan is blowing my pages everywhere.

> The numbness wearing off. I was designed to work with both organic and machine parts to balance that sensory input. Without the balance, I felt like a balloon floating in midair. But the organic parts of my chest

And again, this that's a metaphor that doesn't fucking make sense. Well, that's technically a simile, but I don't give a shit. “Without the balance, I felt like a balloon floating in midair.” And it's like that doesn't make any sense for what is going on here.

That's not giving us any sense of how Murderbot feels at all. Could — like, that does — it just genuiniely doesn't make sense.

You could say I, I felt like my body was a puzzle and half of the pieces had been removed. Anything,

anything at all. But no, we're just going with a balloon floating in midair. And it's like, that doesn't in any way convey what is supposed to be going on right now.

Uh where was it?

> But the organic part of my chest was in contact with a hard surface and that abruptly brought my position into focus. I was laying face down, one arm dangling. They'd put me on a table. This definitely was not good. Pressure on my back, then on my head. The rest of me was coming back, but slowly, slowly. I felt for the feed, but couldn't reach it. Then something stabbed me in the back of the neck.

So, we got to make a little arrow pointing at the neck so I can put some fucking tally marks there. Uh, this is getting...I'm putting an X whenever there's an especially grievous injury. We still don't know what exactly Murderbot's injuries were for the fucking graboid attack, but it said like, parts of its torso and I think its arm were fucked, I do I drew a little stick figure.

I'll show the camera. You can see it's up top there. I drew it too small probably. Stick figure at the top. Doing little tallies for general injuries. X's for especially notable injuries. Uh yeah.

> Then something stabbed me in the back of the neck. That's organic material. And with the rest of me down, there was nothing to control input from my nervous system. It felt like they were sawing my head off with

And it's like first we go from stabbing to “feels like they're sawing my head off” And it's like, those are two different sensations. You really need to fucking pick one.

> A shock went through me and suddenly the rest of me was back online.

How convenient.

> I popped the joint on my left arm

Doing this shit. [writing] Popped the joint. Okay.

> I popped the joint on my left arm so I could move it in a way not usually compatible with a human augmented human or murderbot body.

And it's like that's not really how — whatever we got to draw another. All right. Pen don't die on me now. I think the pen's dying. Okay, it's alive.

Okay, if you pop your shoulder out of place, which is what Murderbot is supposedly doing, it's either popping its shoulder or its elbow, you know how — you know what's not going to happen?

You're not magically going to get the ability to move that joint in every direction. Now, that's not how joints work. Your shoulder is naturally only able to move in specific fucking directions.

Popping it out of that joint doesn't magically give you the ability to move it every which way. That's genu — that's not how physics work. That's not how the physical structure of your fucking body works. That's just ridiculous.

Uh,

> I popped the joint on my left arm and

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

> I reached up to the pressure and pain on my neck and grabbed an armored wrist. I twisted my whole body and took us both off the table.

With an arm that you have popped out of the joint? Even with adrenaline, that doesn't make sense. And especially with — Murderbot was violently knocked unconscious and is severely injured, none of this fucking makes sense.

And the only reason Murderbot is managing to do this is because it's the protagonist and it's overpowered.

And this is what I mean about the characters will never actually be allowed to lose a fight in a way that actually matters. Technically, you could say that Murderbot got snuck up on and lost that fight, but

this isn't losing. This is not losing. This is all setup. You'll see what it's a setup for. It's just it's ridiculous.

You can't pop — why do we got to explain this?

Popping your goddamn shoulder out of its socket doesn't give your arm that you've just dislocated magical strength and maneuverability abilities. That's not how the physical structure of your fucking body works. Even if you're a goddamn cyborg, if that were how Murderbot's arm were meant to function, it wouldn't have to pop the joint out at all. It would just be able to do this at all times.

If you have a dislocated fucking shoulder, you're not going to be able to grip with your full normal strength, even with adrenaline, because again, that's not how the physical structure of your body works. This is fucking bullshit.

And again, it's just Murderbot being completely fucking overpowered. It's ridiculous.

So, Murderbot has popped its shoulder, presumably its shoulder, maybe its elbow, but probably the fucking shoulder, out of place, dislocated its own fucking arm on purpose, and —

But then somehow magically uses that arm to grab somebody above it that it can't see.

And then somehow uses just this arm, this dislocated arm, literally a dislocated arm, and we're supposed to expect that this dislocated arm has somehow enough strength to twist this entire other person off of Murderbot, when Murderbot is seriously injured and has only just woken up from being unconscious, and twist them both to the floor.

Do you see how much shit you have to suspend your disbelief just to get through? And it didn't have to happen like this. This is just so fucking ridiculous.

Let me get a drink.

It's just so fucking ridiculous. Also, spoiler alert. If you're thinking, "Hey, well, at least these injuries will

last to the end of the book, right?" No, none of them will. They all get magically healed. Like, probably before we get even 10 pages in. We're on page 72 right now. Uh...

> We hit the floor and I clamped my legs around the other SecUnit as we rolled

Because oh so conveniently, whatever sensation that first magically felt like getting stabbed in the neck but then also literally like uh, yeah, then “something stabbed me in the back of the neck”. Blah blah blah. “It felt like they were sawing my head off”. Those are separated by one fucking sentence.

Two completely different sensations and types of pain.

And somehow that magically made Murderbot fully magically awake and in complete control over its body again. It's like — not even adrenaline is how this works.

> We hit the floor and I clamped my legs around the other SecUnit as we rolled. It tried to

> trigger the weapons built into its forearm, but my reaction speed was off the chart.

And that's Martha Wells's excuse for all of this shit

> and I clamped a hand over the port so it couldn't fully open.

So now we finally get the vaguest fucking thing about their goddamn energy arm, arm energy guns, that it's a thing that has to physically pop up out and open for the gun to be able to fire.

So it's not just like they've got guns just constantly sitting on their arms. It's folding in and out of their arms. And then you can just stop them from using them by slapping your hand over their arm where the gun would pop out.

So you can just duct tape their arms like fucking alligators and they won't be able to shoot you. All right.

And we're again supposed to believe that somehow Murderbot, who has been extremely incapacitated and was just dealing with all of this fucking lack of sensation from 90% of its body, we're just supposed to pretend that it's completely reasonable for Murderbot to now be able to completely overpower this other person instantly, with a dislocated arm.

It hasn't popped its shoulder back into place. Its arm is still dislocated. This is ridiculous.

Uh,

> I clamped a hand over the port so it couldn't fully open. My vision was back and I could see its opaque helmet inches away. My armor had been removed down to my waist and that just made me more angry. I shoved its hand up under its chin and took the pressure off its weapon. It had a split sec

Martha Wells is so fucking bad at writing.

Literally the only reason any of the protagonists survive in this story or win a single fight is that the enemies are made incompetent.

> And it had a split second to try to abort that fire command and it failed.

So, we're supposed to believe that this other slave is so incompetent at fighting that they were trying to fire their energy gun at Murderbot, and then even though this is a literal part of their body we're talking about, because it's not it's not like a just a gun strapped to their arm. It's built into their entire body. We're supposed to pretend that they've accidentally just shot themselves in the fucking face, because Murderbot took its hand off their gun.

It's fucking ridiculous.

> The energy burst went through my hand and the join between its helmet and neck piece. Its head jerked and its body started to spasm.

I'm guessing this person's now magically dead. Oh, we I didn't write down this person's name. Uh, we need a name with E.

Edith Thompson. Where did my bookmark go? Okay. My bookmark...

What's the house's name? What's their child's name? Okay. My bookmark has disappeared. We're on page 72 so I can write this down.

Or, should we do Edith or Edward? Edward Grove? No, because that would, that would that would flood the Edward Grove tag, I think, I'm sure exists. So, we're going to do Edith. So, this person's name is Edith. Um,

uh, so far the only injury this person has sustained is a energy blast, a thing we still don't have a single description for, to the neck, because it's saying that the blast is going...it's bad. It's badly written. Let me fucking reread that. Page 72, which is actually 62 slash less than that.

> I shoved its hand up under its chin and took the pressure off the weapon.

Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

> The energy burst went through my hand and the join in its helmet and neck piece.

That does — what? How is that? How is this helmet connecting to the neck? Because under the chin means right here. So, are you telling me that the neck piece comes curving out here and then the helmet is attached right there?

That's really fucking weird.

So, Murderbot has also just gotten itself shot in the hand here. So, we got to add another another tally mark there. Um, yeah.

So, got shot in the head, presumably, by an undescribed energy blast.

And see, we're supposed to — Martha Wells wants us to think that, “oh, this person is just really bad at fighting and that's that's why they shot themselves in the face”.

But again, if you are actually just approaching this from the perspective of somebody who doesn't immediately instantly think that all slaves are evil murder machines, okay, here's the question:

Did this person allow themselves to shoot themselves because they would rather die than inflict this shit on another slave, and this is the only way they have of fighting back?

A question the book does not want you to think about.

You don't — it doesn't want you to ask that question, let alone answer it, because that would require grasping that Murderbot is murdering other slaves that we should fucking want to help instead of cheering on their deaths.

Uh,

its head jerked and its body started to spasm. I let go of it long enough to kneel up, get my intact arm around its

Oh god, I hate you so much. Well, Edith is dead.

I let go of it long enough to kneel up, get my intact arm around its neck, and twist. I let go as I felt the connections, mechanical and organic, snap.

Because Murderbot — I hate Murderbot. So, Murderbot snapped Edith’s neck. Killed by getting their neck snapped. S

So, pro tip, if you want to murder Murderbot, snap its neck.

Apparently, that's instadeath as well. Despite it being so sturdy that murder —

(from offscreen) routinely blown up. Yeah, it doesn't make sense. It's badly written.

Okay, over on this side now.

> I looked up and another SecUnit was in the doorway lifting a large projectile weapon. How many of these damn things were there?

Do you notice again we're just dehumanizing the other slaves now, explicitly referring to them as things, even though they're all people, but you know, the back of this book refers to Murderbot specifically as “a self-aware android” meaning that the other android — they're not androids, they're cyborgs — meaning that if Murderbot is a self-aware android, then the back of the book tries to convince us that “okay then all of the other ones they are just literal own mindless killing machines!”

And then Martha Wells, after writing this book and approving of this fucking summary on the back that flat out lies to everybody, then she wants to get up on stages that she gets paid for and literally soapbox about how you're willfully ignorant and evil and stupid if you think that “maybe the other slaves aren't people because that's the only way to reconcile the

two statements of ‘we're supposed to think it's good for Murderbot to murder other slaves’ and ‘we're supposed to think it's — that Murderbot is a good person.’”

The only way to square that….what, what sentence am I trying to say?

The only way to — the only way to reconcile those two statements is it — either saying that “okay the other slaves are just mindless machines. Murderbot's just a weird quirk that magically developed sentience, so therefore it's okay to kill the other machines because they are just mindless machines.”

That's option one.

Or option two: acknowledge that Martha Wells is racist and that's why it doesn't fucking make any sense, because she's racist and wants us to be racist.

People don't want to come to conclusion two, so they opt instead for conclusion one that, “okay, I'm supposed to think it's — I'm supposed to think it's

good for the protagonist to kill other slaves, and I'm supposed to like the protagonist and think it's a good person. So therefore, the only conclusion here, if we ignore the possibility of that the author is just fucking racist and is doing slavery apologism, only conclusion left is that, okay, the other people, they're not actual people. So I don't I shouldn't feel bad about any of this. It's totally fine. They're just mindless machines”

(emphatically) Chiana, it's just a copy, Chiana.

And see there's a difference there, because Chiana was just doing that so she doesn't die from the survivor's guilt. And that's only her personal fucking hell that she is keeping contained in her own head.

She's not she's not going around murdering other people. I'm not even telling you what that's from. You can figure it out yourself. If you know, you know.

If you don't and you happen to find that thing later, you can go, "Wait, I know that."

How many of these damn things were there?

(Sarcasm begins) Because we, as we all know, slaves are things. They're objects. This is totally a totally non-racist book by somebody who actually cares about slavery. (Sarcasm ends)

> It didn't matter because I tried to shove myself upright, but I couldn't react fast enough. Then it jerked, dropped the weapon, and fell forward. I saw two things. The 10 cm hole in its back and Mensah standing behind it holding something that looked a lot like the sonic mining drill from our hopper.

So that's uh, A,B,C,D, E... So we need a name with F. Starts with F.

(from offscreen) Fran.

Fran?

(from offscreen) Yep.

Okay. Okay. So this is Fran, who has died not — instantly from Mensah coming in to murder it, by

stabbing them in the back with a mining drill. Murdered by Mensah.

So Mensah is not just a slave owner, she's also a slave murderer now.

Because, remember, not one single one of these slaves has any choice in what they're fucking doing right now. Mensah does. Murderbot does. Mensah doesn't know Murderbot has a choice in this.

As far as Mensah is concerned, um, she sent her slave in to die and then was like, "Oh no, we might, we might need that more in case more graoids come back."

Mensah would — fully capable of knocking this other slave unconscious because as we all know, you can just hit them in the head really fucking hard and they'll collapse. They're kind of like Tarzan that way.

From behind with mining drill, core sampler drill. That's what it is.

So, our list of — our list of other slaves so far, Belladona stabbed, uh by presumably, by the other slaves under orders, died supposedly protecting the slave owners, considered one of the good ones by Murderbot.

Celene, who had — is still alive, still alive supposedly, just kind of left there to die. Uh had three explosive bolts to the back and one in the face.

Damian, one explosive bolt to the elbow. Unknown amount of normal bullets and then more explosive bolts to various parts of their body.

Edith, uh immediately got shot in the head by their own energy weapon and then killed by Murderbot snapping their neck.

And then Fran murdered by Mensah from behind with a core sampler drill.

Okay, then I'm pausing quick.

All right, continuing.

So, yeah, that's one, two, three, four, five.

Five other slaves so far that are not Murderbot. Only one of them is considered “one of the good ones” and because they're dead. That's it.

Uh, everybody else is completely demonized, and one of them was murdered by Mensah herself coming in from behind with the core sampling drill.

That was page 73. I don't know where my bookmark went. Doesn't really matter. It's not like this is a long book.

Um,

> “Doctor Mensah,” I said, "This is a violation of security priority, and I am contractually obligated to record this for a report to the company." It was in the buffer, and the rest of my brain was empty.

And no, we never get an explanation for what that fucking means. We just get told, "Oh, uh, that was in

the buffer. Um, I didn't feel like talking and that was in the buffer."

And it's like, we we never get an explanation for what any of this fucking means at all.

> She ignored me, talking to Pin-Lee on the comm and stirred forward to — She ignored me, talking to Pin-Lee on the comm and started forward to grab my arm and pull. I was too heavy for her, so I shoved upright so she wouldn't hurt herself. It was starting to occur to me that Doctor Mensah might actually be an intrepid galactic explorer, even if she didn't look like the ones on the entertainment feed.

So Menah is ignoring the slave who was having to say something.

She's not saying anything to reassure Murderbot in any way. Even though Murderbot has just been the one kidnapped and assaulted if we are just going with the in-universe shit, and yeah, just had to murder

another slave and then had another the slave murdered in front of it.

Mensah is not saying anything to Murderbot here. She's completely fucking ignoring it and immediately just, trying to pull it to its feet. Not even asking “can you walk” um, anything.

And also! Murderbot still has a dislocated shoulder that still hasn't been popped back into place! So she could be literally pulling on its fucking dislocated arm. We don't know.

She uh yeah, also she uh she might actually be an a blah blah blah blah blah

> galactic explorer even if she didn't look like the ones on the entertainment feed.

And it's like you're deliberately raising the question of “what do the intrepid galactic explorers look like on the entertainment feed?” and then not giving us any answer at all. W

hat exactly makes Mensah not look like somebody who would appear on TV? Martha Wells, you can't just ask that question, which is what you're doing here, by making the statement and then never give us an answer.

> She kept pulling on me, so I kept moving. Something was wrong with one of my hip joints. Oh, right. I got shot there. Blood ran down my torn suit skin.

And again, we don't know what the fuck that means.

> And I reached up to my neck. I expected to feel a gaping hole, but there was something stuck there.

And again, let me read that again.

> Blood ran down my torn skin suit skin, and I reached up to my neck expecting to feel a gaping hole.

So, what the again, what the fuck is a suit skin? What is it? Is it literally a fake layer of skin that Murderbot puts on top of its organic parts? What does it mean? We never get a fucking explanation.

And again, you'll notice that all of this shit is just being glossed over.

Murderbot is extremely — it's been shot how many times? Been shot by at least at least a dozen energy weapon fires. So, just imagine the fucking pew pew guns from Star Wars.

It's been hit by a dozen of those. Has been shot four times in the fucking hip, three times in the shoulder, violently hit in the head, dislocated its shoulder.

Um, and yeah, all of this shit and, and we're not getting any description of how difficult it is to move, how painful it is to move.

And saying, "Oh, well, well, it has it has pain inhibitors. It can turn its pain sensors up and down."

It's like, no, we're not even doing that. That doesn't — that doesn't excuse any of this shit.

Yeah, we're just saying “something was wrong with one of my one of my hip joints” and then immediately making a joke out of it of, "Oh, right. I got shot there."

Like, it's, it's just making a joke. It's just making a joke. Murderbot got shot four times in the fucking hip. So, it's having trouble walking and we're just making a light-hearted joke about “I forgot I got shot there. So laugh at this instead of taking any of it seriously” because you're not supposed to take any of it seriously.

> “Doctor Mensah, there might be more rogue units. We don't know” “That's why we need to hurry.” She said

This is the first thing she has said to Murderbot. The first fucking thing. This is the first time she acknowledges Murderbot's fucking existence after walking in here after murdering another slave in front

of it and grabbing it by the arm and trying to yank it to its feet, even though it has a dislocated arm.

So, there's a 50% fucking chance she grabbed its dislocated arm and is dragging it around by its dislocated arm.

So, she literally ignored it the first time, didn't say anything. Now, the only thing she has said is,

> "That's why we need to hurry," she said, dragging me along. She had brought the last two drones with her from outside, but they were uselessly circling her head. Humans don't have enough access to the feed to control them and do other things like walk and talk

Cuz Martha Wells is bad at writing science fiction and really wants to die on this hill, and it's really weird and really badly written.

It's very pathetic, to be honest.

> I tried to reach them, but I still couldn't get a clear link to the hopper's feed. We turned into another corridor and Overse waited in the outer hatch. She hit the open panel as soon as she saw us. She had her hand weapon out and I had time to notice that Mensah had my weapon under her other arm. “Doctor Mensah, I need my weapon.” “You're missing a hand and part of your shoulder.” She snapped.

So, it's missing part of its hand from when it got shot by an energy weapon through the through the hand, because it got shot through its hand and that — because its hand was like this? or like this? And then got shot through its hand to shoot the other person in the head with their own weapon.

We're on page 74. So, I got to make a little mark for the, the hand injury. Make that an X instead, because apparently it's missing its whole fucking hand.

Uh,

> “You're missing a hand and part of your shoulder.” She snapped.

Also, part of its shoulder is apparently missing. So, got to make an X there, too.

And she's snapping at the slave. Still not saying anything to reassure it, just yelling at it for doing things that it has no choice but to say and do.

> "You're missing a hand and part of your shoulder," she snapped. Overse grabbed a fist — a handful of my suit skin and helped pull me out of the hatch.

You know, like, the inconsistencies just with the fucking suit skin is so maddening.

First, we in this just this scene alone, we act like it maybe is like an literal official, artificial skin slapped on top of Murderbot's fucking — because it was checking that for damage for its neck, but now somebody's grabbing a fistful of this suit skin,

implying that it's just some kind of clothes it wears under the armor.

It's like, Jesus fucking Christ. Can we even keep this fucking straight for like — Yeah, literally within — we we mentioned the uh “blood ran down my torn suit skin and I reached up to my neck” and then right here “Overse grabbed a handful of my suit skin and helped pull me out of the hatch.”

First one implying it's actual fucking skin laid over top of its artificial uh, fiber, cybernetic prosthetics, but then its saying somebody's grabbing a fistful of it, meaning you're grabbing a fistful of its fucking clothes.

Like, it's so fucking badly written and ridiculous. And for the amount of times it gets brought up in this book just to cause confusion and make it impossible to figure out what the fuck is actually happening, it never comes up in the entire rest of the series ever again.

Not even in a simplified form that lets me finally understand this in retrospect. Oh my god.

> Overse grabbed a handful of my suit skin and helped pull me out of the hatch. Dust swirled in the air as the hopper sat down two meters away, barely clearing the habitat's extendable roof. “Yeah, I know. But” the hatch opened and Rathi ducked out, grabbed the collar of my suit

So, there's now a collar to the suit skin again, implying it's clothiing, maybe.

> Grabbed the collar of my suit skin and pulled all three of us up into the cabin. I collapsed on the deck as we lifted off. I needed to do something about the hip joint. I tried to check the scan to make sure nobody was on the ground shooting at us. But even here, my connection to the hopper system was twitchy, glitching so much I couldn't see any reports from the instrumentation. Like something was blocking the dot dot dot. Uh oh. I felt the back of my neck again.

And this is the setup for this whole fucking thing. We're about to get there. It's, it's so, it's so fucking racist. It's the entire reason this whole entire book exists. It's the whole reason that there is a Murderbot Diary series in the first place. You'll see.

> I felt the back of my neck again. The larger part of the obstruction was gone.

What do you mean? What do you mean the larger — where did it go? Where did it go? What do you fucking mean?

> The larger part of the obstruction was gone. But I could feel something in the port now. My data port.

And again, you'll notice how this fucking only comes up after it's relevant. We don't know what a data port is, but it's apparently in the back of Murderbot's neck, and has apparently been there the whole time.

Effortless to have Murderbot use that when it's in the literally — Literally, we could have gotten — as if you

— May probably didn't hear from behind the cardboard. It would have been so fucking effortless to just introduce this data port the first time Murderbot caught into its cubicle saying, "I plugged the data. I plugged the, the sync, the fucking sync, charge and sync cable from the goddamn cubicle into the data port in the back of my neck so I could watch uh the episodes of Sanctuary Moon that I hadn't been able to fit in my own internal storage.”

But no, we're just pulling this shit out of nowhere only after it is important.

So again, “the larger part of the obstruction was gone.” So apparently — literally just a page before now…the uh, let me flip back.

I would flip back.

> I reached up to my neck. I expected to feel a gaping hole but there was something stuck there.

And now we're being told that, only a page later, “the larger part of the obstruction was gone.” Implying that — this is how words work.

When you are saying “the larger part of the obstruction was gone”, that means that something has fallen off of Murderbot, some giant thing that had been stuck to the back of Murderbot's neck has now fallen off.

When did it fall off? Why did it fall off? What sense does this fucking make?

Let me get a drink.

This is just so fucking terrible. You can't just say “the larger part of the obstruction” when you never defined the obstruction in the first place. You just said something was stuck there.

Literally some “there was something stuck there”. Now we're saying “the larger part of the obstruction was gone”. As though we ever defined that it was — “felt like two different pieces” maybe stuck together,

or like, “I rubbed at it or I tried to pull it out” or anything. something fell away.

Anything like that.

No, we're just getting told this fucking shit, it's so fucking ridiculous.

> The larger part of the obstruction was gone. But I could feel something in the port now. My data port.

And it's like, okay, then just pull it out. It's in a fucking, it's a flash drive section thing.

And then, again, characters just making shit up out of nowhere for no fucking reason at all. And they're right, because that's what the plot's doing, which is the only reason they came to these conclusions based on literally fucking nothing.

Again, the existence of the data port that did not exist before now until literally the fucking exact paragraph where we're mentioning it for the first time.

And it's at the very end of that. My data port is that last little section there. And now we go to the, the, the protagonist just makes fucking up section.

> The DeltFall units hadn't been rogues,

aka just regular escaping slaves.

> They had been inserted with combat override modules. The modules allow personal control over a SecUnit. Turn it from a mostly autonomous construct into a gun puppet. The feed would be cut off. Control would be over the comm, but functionality would depend on how complex the orders were. Kill the humans isn't a complex order.

And it's like that's a whole lot of fucking assumptions you're making. Why would — why would we assume that all of the DeltFall SecUnits had been inserted with these combat modules when we've already established that the only thing somebody would have to do to gain control over them the normal way, through their governor modules, would be to hack

HubSystem, a thing that's very clearly extremely easy to fucking do, because Murderbot can do it and with zero training, and we keep getting told Murderbot's shit at its job.

So if we take this book at face value, none of this fucking makes sense.

But we're just supposed to accept this absolute bullshit that has just been pulled up out of thin air as absolute truth because it's — that's what's happening. So that's the only reason the character came to that conclusion. Not because — it's not because they've all been given enough clues to figure this out, but it's just because that's what the plot's actually doing.

So we're just going to act like the, the characters are reacting to a fucking plot that they already know. So again, it's ridiculous.

> Mensah stood over me

Oh, we're now halfway through this book. We're on page 75 now.

Uh dividing the actual number of pages in the actual story, we're now one page more than halfway through. And they're still treating Murderbot like a slave.

Again, you notice if there was a person in there that they actually cared about, they would be saying things like, "It's going to be all right. We're gonna get you out of here. Um, don't worry. We've got we've got a medkit. It's going to be fine." Anything to reassure it.

They're giving Murderbot less consideration than Murderbot did for Volescu in literal chapter 1. Just let that sink in.

Murderbot said all of this reassuring shit to Volescu, and I'm just going to say Murderbot's plural, because that makes more sense than anything going on in here.

Um, Murderbot did everything in its power to reassure Volescu and get him to safety and reassure him and make him feel safe.

They're not saying a single thing to it besides yelling at it.

That's not —

That's not treating it like a person.

That's not showing that they care.

Ridiculous.

Uh,

> Mensah stood over me. Rathi leaned across a seat to look out toward the DeltFall ramp. Overse popped open one of the storage lockers. They were talking, but I couldn't catch it. I sat up and said, "Mensah, you need to shut me down now."

And again, you'll notice Rathi's just chilling in a chair looking out the fucking window. Overse is opening up one of the storage lockers. Overse is at least the trained nurse, so she's probably going for a medkit.

But Mensah's just standing there. Rathi's looking out the fucking window —

— Who's flying this thing??!!?

Who's — not to do the meme, but who the fucking is flying this??!?!

I, I don't, I thought they — I don't think they have anybody else with them??? Isn't it just Rathi, Overse, and Mensah? Because — Because Yeah, because Rathi was the one told to stay behind. What??? Who's — who's flying?????

Rathi's supposed to be the one flying it, but but he's he's leaning across a seat, not the pilot seat!!! A seat in the back, the passenger compartment to look out a window.

There is nobody flying this fucking ship right now! And they. they don't have autopilot anymore. Oh my god. This is on page 75. Nobody's flying this fucking ship. And we are supposed to not notice that. This is literally the fucking gag of “Wait, who's flying this?”

Nobody's fucking flying it. Oh my god. And, and, and nobody except maybe Overse is going for a medical kit.

But what I don't understand is why didn't she tell Rathi to get out a medical kit before she went inside?

Again, the, the second you apply logic and actually think, “okay, but what would these characters be doing if they really cared about Murderbot?” Um, if they really cared about Murderbot, they would have all seen how injured Murderbot was, and Rathi would have gotten out a medical kit, had that waiting and open and waiting for them to get back while — he's supposed to be piloting the ship, but he's just sitting in the back casually looking out a fucking window.

Not doing anything to help Murderbot. Not trying to do anything to help Murderbot. He's just looking out a fucking window.

My God —

> “Mensah, you need to shut me down now.” Murderbot said. "What?" She looked down at me. "We're getting emergency repair."

Cuz Murderbot's ears are going in and out.

> Sound was breaking up. It was the download flooding my system, and my organic parts weren't used to processing that much information. “The unknown SecUnit inserted a data carrier, a combat override module. It's downloading instructions into me and will override my system. This is why the two DeltFall units turned rogue. You have to stop me.”

And again, this is presented as the reason that — the only possible reason that the slaves enslaved by the DeltFall thing could ever possibly want to kill their slave owners.

Not because, you know, slave owners are evil or anything and they would like to not be enslaved. No. Nope.

> This is — This is why —this is why the two DeltFall units turned rogue. “You have to stop me.” I don't know why I was

And, and “you have to stop me”, this is all — this is the entire reason Martha Wells wrote this fucking series. She's even admitted it in interviews. I don't know if those interviews still exist. She might have paid to get them deleted like she's done multiple times now with interviews that aged badly, because she said some serious fucking ridiculous shit.

> “You have to stop me.” I don't know why I was dancing around the word. Maybe because I thought she didn't want to hear it. She'd just shot a heavily armed SecUnit with a mining drill to get me back. Presumably, she wanted to keep me. “You have to kill me.” It took forever for them to realize what I'd said. Put it together with what they must have seen on my field camera feed, but my ability to measure time was glitching, too. “No,” Rathi said, looking down at me, horrified. “No, we can't,” Mensah

said. “We won't. Pin-Lee,” Overse dropped the repair kit and climbed over two rows of seats, yelling for Pin.

Is Pin-Lee here? Yelling for Pin-Lee…. I guess Pin-Lee had been talking about saying, "Yeah, the satellites do this all the time."

Okay, so Pin-Lee is flying the fucking thing. Why was that so difficult? We could have just estab — back the fuck up.

Hold on. Rewinding.

Refuckingwinding.

Okay. Pin-Lee's mentioned at the start of chapter 4. Hold on.

Oh, wait. We just got those epubs. Want to just control F search that EPUB? It's on your computer, not mine. Oh. Damn it.

Rathi. Yeah. When we're — when Murderbot is going into the, the other people's hub, the only person being left behind in the, the fucking thing is Rathi. Okay.

I passed the info to Mensah through the feed and she told the others. Keeping her voice low, Pin-Lee said blah blah blah blah blah. So Pin-Lee was mentioned as being here in a single fucking line. And then Rathi is again mentioned saying be careful before turning off the fucking feed.

This is just so badly fucking written. It's so badly written. I legitimately forgot that Pin-Lee went along with them on this thing, because she was hardly fucking mentioned and Rathi kept being emphasized as like being the onlybody — the only person left behind in the fucking hopper.

And then Overse — ow my fucking ribs.

This is so fucking badly written. I swear to God. There's — again and, not — there's too many characters to begin with, and then she's not even letting us remember that the characters are here.

I legitimately completely fucking forgot that Pin-Lee existed in general, let alone was here on this fucking thing with them.

Ow.

So Pin-Lee is flying the fucking thing despite it would have taken 5 seconds to mention Pin-Lee was the best — Pin-Lee was — saying any anything at all. Anything at all.

This is so ridiculous. fucking thing there.

Also, I partially dislocated my ribs, which is fucking infuriating.

So, Pin-Lee is flying the fucking thing. Okay.

And and we were just allowed to completely forget that she's a character who is here.

> Overse dropped the repair kit and climbed over two rows of seats, yelling for Pin-Lee. I knew she was going to the cockpit to take the

> controls so Pin-Lee could work on me. I knew she wouldn't have time to fix me. I knew I could kill everyone on the hopper, even with a blown hip joint and one working arm.

Because Martha Wells can't help but act like oppressed people are actually super seriously overpowered and capable of murdering regular people without any effort at all.

> So, I grabbed the hand weapon lying on the seat, turned it toward my chest, and pulled the trigger. Performance reliability at 10% and dropping. Shutdown initiated.

So, we're now on chapter 5 because again, this scene where Murderbot attempts to fucking kill itself by shooting itself to protect the precious slave owners, Martha Wells has literally said this is the reason she wrote the whole thing.

And originally this story was supposed to end right fucking here, tragically, with Murderbot successfully

killing itself to protect its slave owners to show that it is one of the good ones.

And then she decided that ending was “too depressing” and also definitely realized, “oh, I can make more money if I just drag this out though.”

This is literally the entire reason this book was written, so that she could write a scene where the protagonist slave, who's “one of the good ones” who will kill other slaves to protect its slave owners, tries to kill itself to protect its slave owners.

And the only literal only reason that Murderbot does not succeed right now and get presented as a tragic hero for killing itself to protect its slave owners, who up until this point have literally been treating it like nothing more than a the slave it is, this is —

This is supposed to be seen as heroic and tragic and beautiful and showing how how Murderbot is “one of the good ones”.

The only reason Murderbot doesn't fucking die here is that Martha Wells realized she could make more money by stretching it out into a series. That's the only reason —

She's told people this. It's fucking ridiculous. That's how fucking racist she is.

That's why I keep saying, um that this whole thing literally exists so that she could fulfill her fantasy of being ~such a nice slave owner that her slaves would totally kill themselves to protect her.~

Because that's, that's literally the premise of this whole fucking book.

“What if — how, how awesome would it be if a slave killed itself to protect its slave owners? Because the slave owners were just so nice??”

Because we're supposed to project onto the, the PreservationAux team and say, "Yeah, I would be a nice slave owner like they are!!!" It's literally a white supremacist fantasy of being such a nice slave owner

that your slave tries to kill themselves to protect you because they love you so much and they're one of the good ones.

That's, that's slightly more than 50, 50% of the way through this book.

That's page 76 out of 149 if we just go off these fucking lying numbers, which are lies.

But anyways, the ratio at least is slightly correct. So now we're going to be on chapter five.

Uh, I guess I'll just end it here because we're on chapter five. Then next video can just be chapter five.

07

Still August 25th, 2025. Uh, I just have to flip back because I dropped my bookmark, but we're just not going to use a bookmark.

I'm on chapter five, so just got to scroll to chapter five.

Yeah, we just got through the scene where — that Martha Wells literally wrote the whole book to write, where — the scene where Murderbot, the slave, attempts to kill itself to protect its precious slave owners.

Specifically, she definitely just imagined the dialogue of “you have to stop me / you have to kill me.”

She she definitely figured that out first and thought, "Oh, that would be so cool. I love that trope." And then decided to make it be about a slave trying to protect its slave owners instead of literally any other dynamic in the entire world.

So, now we're on chapter five where they at least don't put in a giant blank page here, like they did with the earlier chapters to buff out how long this fucking book is, and lie to people.

Like, look, look at this shit. It's chapter 3.

> I came back online to find I was inert but slowly cycling into a wake up phase. I was agitated. My levels were all off and I had no idea why. I played back my personal log. Oh, right.

Again, making jokes. That's making light of the situation. We — there's so many ways we could do this that's not making light of it and making it impossible to take it seriously.

But we're not doing any of those things. Instead, we are undercutting all of the fucking tension.

> I shouldn't be waking up. I hope they hadn't been stupid about it. Too soft-hearted to kill me.

Also, this whole thing just really doesn't make sense and is really badly written and is just badly written.

> You notice I didn't point the gun at my head. I didn't want to kill myself, but it was going to have to be done. I could have incapacitated myself some other way. But let's face it, I didn't want to sit around and listen to the part where they convinced each other that there was no other choice.

It's just like, it's just a baff — it's, there's not — it's just baffling.

(from offscreen) She clearly had people beating her the head with you should not

Say that louder so they can hear.

(from offscreen, louder) was clearly being beaten over the head with by better readers and people reading it that “you should not have your slave kill itself to protect them.” She's like, "Well, technically Murderbot wasn't trying to kill itself."

Yeah.

(from offscreen) So, technically,

Yeah. This is very clearly backtracking of “Murderbot the slave is trying to kill itself to protect its slave owners.” That just happened on this page. So now on this page, she's already trying to backtrack in the most baffling way possible by saying that, "Oh, um, well, Murderbot wasn't really trying to kill itself when it shot itself with the express purpose of trying to kill itself.”

Now we're trying to backpedal away from that, and it's not fucking working. It's rid — It's just baffling and ridiculous.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat mod

Of course it has.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me

Also, what do you mean it initiated and then instantly told you that?

You could have said a diagnostic that had been taking up most of my processing power, uh completed, and informed me that blah.

No, it's just

> a diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat override module had been removed. All

Both those things happen at the exact same instant.

The diagnostic starts running and it instantly tells Murderbot that the super duper controlling brain killing chip is not there anymore.

Because again, you know how I said this is all setup? It's literally the only reason the combat override module, aka super duper uber scary brainkilling chip of redundancy that any writer or editor Lee Harris

worth even a fucking penny, would have told Martha Wells to get the fuck rid ofm because it's ridiculous.

You don't need to have completely redundant, super duper uber governor modules when literally all you have to do is hack the HubSystem that controls their governor modules and then you can do whatever you want with them, exactly the way like you were their fucking owner.

It's literally that simple. That's all you have to do.

But Martha Wells decided to introduce the concept of a super uber brain killing chip that we're calling a combat override module, solely for the purpose so that she could write this scene where the slave tries to heroically tragically kill itself to protect its slave owners.

So she could have a character say the dialogue, "You have to stop me. You have to kill me” In the most meaningless way possible.

And then she made it about a slave trying to kill itself to protect its owners.

And then immediately tries to backtrack and pretend that that's not what just happened, and not what she was so excited to write. Even though she'll literally — she's told multiple people in multiple interviews that this is, this is what she wrote the book for. This was her whole premise for the book.

> A diagnostic initiated

What is that sound? It sounds very loud.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me the combat

Oh yeah. Again with the zero stakes. That super uber duper brain killing chip. It's literally already gone. It, it we got introduced to the fact that that was a thing um right over here.

Literally, this is page 75, up at the top here is where we get the “uh oh”, and we get randomly told about

the fact that Murderbot has a data port in the back of its neck, a thing that did not fucking exist until right now, for the sole purpose of there being a, a, a super duper uber brain killing chip in its data port.

And now we're over here, and it's already gone.

The threat is completely and utterly neutralized and will literally never come up in the series ever again.

That's not a fucking thing that Murderbot has to deal with or be afraid of. It's literally impossible.

That's, that super duper uber brain killing chip literally existed so that Martha Wells could write a two-page scene where a slave tries to kill itself to protect its slave owners by shooting itself after saying, "You have to stop me." Because that sounds like good dialogue from the climax to a story that's actually well written, but isn'tm because it's, it's just slavery apologism, worshiping slave owners, and now the super duper uber brain killing chip is all —

And just in case you were concerned or had thought there were going to be any stakes to this story at all, no, it's literally already gone right here. Right here.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat override module had been removed.

So, it's, it's gone. Murderbot is not even remotely under its control. It was never under its control, because it was literally just so that scene could happen.

And now that the, the scene has happened, it's not a threat anymore, will never be a threat ever again, because this is supposed to be a light-hearted comedy, which is why it is written so that every single time there can possibly be any tension whatsoever, it gets undercut.

Martha Wells goes out of her way to undercut it. Even right up at the top here, where Murderbot is first waking up from shooting itself, we immediately make a joke. “Oh, why am I upset? Oh, right. Lol. I tried to kill myself.”

(from offscreen) “I just tried to commit suicide.”

Yeah.

(from offscreen) On screen.

Literally

(from offscreen) “this is a good thing!”

Yeah. Martha Wells is literally portraying a slave attempting suicide to save its slave owners and is treating that like a positive thing.

And then when that slave wakes up from this attempt, is immediately making a joke of it. And then you — it's not possible to take this shit seriously.

And then she still wants to go up on stage and lie to people who haven't read these books, so they have no idea how badly they're being lied to, and tell people that she wrote a deathly serious story that's not lighthearted or funny. “I thought I was writing a very serious story about bodily autonomy.”

And it's like, no, you didn't. You did not do that. You expressly did not fucking do that.

And it's — and she's like, “just because I sometimes tell jokes doesn't mean it's a comedy.;

And it's like, there's a difference between characters telling jokes in a serious story and you writing a fucking light-hearted comedy where every single time there's tension, you immediately fucking vaporize that tension by making jokes about it to undercut the tension and make it impossible to take it seriously.

You can in fact tell jokes in a sto — in a serious story without that making the sto, the serious story into a comedy.

But Martha Wells didn't write a serious story.

She wrote a light-hearted fucking comedy.

She then wants to lie to people and say that she didn't do that because she's a racist shitty writer.

(unintelligible from offscreen)

What?

(from offscreen) She wrote what would best be described as an action comedy.

Yeah, I'm pretty sure that that's probably how the that's probably how the TV show is getting marketed. It's an action comedy. That's what this is. It's a light-hearted action comedy because she wrote it that way.

She didn't have to write it this way, she could have actually written a serious story, but she chose not to.

Like at some point when I'm done this or, I guess, I guess I'll rewatch my videos so I don't have to read the book again.

And I will just make a fucking tally mark — or you can do that yourself starting now. Make a tally mark for every time we have some tension and then it immediately gets fucking decapitated by a joke immediately afterward, to make it impossible to take

it seriously. Make a tally mark every time we get told, "Oh, there's there's some fight going on." Zero description. Zero description of any injury. Zero description of the amount of pain that Murderbot's in. And then the Oh, yeah. Uh if you were concerned about —

Where'd my paper go? Paper… my tally marks, my little stick figure at the top. If you were concerned about any of those injuries there on my little stick figure — where's where's the camera at? Dang, it really does not want to focus on this side.

If you were concerned about any of those injuries, every little tally mark and mark, including the pink ones you see on there, those are just the injuries that Murderbot sustained in the last chapter. They're all magically healed now.

Sorry to disappoint anybody who actually gives a fucking about good storytelling.

Uh yeah, all of those injuries are magically healed because Martha Wells is a shit writer and she hates physically disabled people.

Anyways, let's continue actually fucking reading this.

We're still on page one of chapter 5.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me the combat override module had been removed.

Also, I hate the — I hate the words “combat override module”.

I always want to read it in the wrong order. I always want to say “combat module override” for some reason. It's irritating as shit.

(from offscreen) More logical that way.

No, it's not even though, because — Well, I mean, yeah, because then the, the emphasis is on the overriding part and not the module part....

I don't know why they're called combat override modules anyways, because you could use that for literally anything. a SecUnit is used for — it's not combat.

Oh, also you notice how, um I forget the exact line that, I meant to mention it for in the last video, but you notice how we got told a bunch of duties that that the meatshield slaves aka SecUnits, security units, uh how none of them are —

No, wait, no, that was the stupid ass...That was for compulsion, Compulsory, whatever the fuck it's called. Never mind. That's not relevant yet. Ignore me.

Needless to say, it's a flatout fucking lie that SecUnits are used to murder people. That literally never happens, ever.

> I opened my security feed and found a camera for medical. I was lying on the procedure table, my armor gone, just wearing what was left of my suit skin. The humans gathered around. That was a bit of a nightmare image, but my

> shoulder, hand, and hip had been repaired, so I'd been in my cubicle at some point

Because, you know, who gives a fuck about stakes? Who gives a fuck about telling a story that we are allowed to take seriously?

Not Martha Wells, because she would ra — she'd honestly at this point, she would rather kill Murderbot off completely than let it become physically disabled or even give it a fucking scar.

> I ran the recording back a little and watched Pin-Lee and Oversee use the surgical suite to deaftly remove the combat module from the back of my head.

Why do they need surgery? It's a goddamn flash drive thingamajiggy.

> It was such a relief. I played the recording twice, then ran a diagnostic.

Why aren't you saying another diagnostic? It's already run one fucking diagnostic. Say another diagnostic because said because just saying I ran a diagnostic. It's sounding like you already fucking forgot you just said it ran one.

(from offscreen) She probably did. She probably did forget that.

Uh we were reading some reviews for her The Books of the Raksura just the first one, The Cloud Roads, and people were pointing out there's literal whole scenes where characters literally fucking forgot what was just said on page two pages ago, because the author fucking forgot she wrote it.

> My logs were clear. Nothing there except what I'd had before entering the DeltFall habitat.

Oh my god. I want to commit murder before I read this last line. Oh my god. Oh my god. Turn to page 78. Class, do you want to guess what the next line is?

(from offscreen) I'm eating cheerios.

Just guess. It's six words out of all the slavery apologism.

(from offscreen) I cannot think of anything.

Okay, let me read the paragraph part of the paragraph above here. Blah blah blah blah blah.

> I re ran the recording back a little and watched Pin-Lee and Overse use the surgical suite to deaftly remove the combat module from the back of my head. It was such a relief. I played the recording twice, then ran a diagnostic. My logs were clear. Nothing there except what I'd had before entering the DeltFall habitat.
> My clients are the best clients.

Aka, my slave owners are the best slave owners.

Did you think I was exaggerating when I've said that multiple times?

No, that's a literal fucking sentence in this goddamn book.

“My clients are the best clients” when clients are explicitly slave owners.

Literally saying, "My slave owners are the best slave owners."

I'm not even fucking joking. Jesus Christ.

Oh, and also the, the there's also slavery apologism by saying “my clients” as though they are something that belongs to Murderbot. instead of people who own Murderbot, the other way around. That's more slavery apologism, because that's supposed to make it seem endearing and like uh, heartwarming and like, "Oh, Murderbot really loves them."

The power — what it's also trying — it's a way, propaganda way to inverse the power — perceived power dynamics, as though Murderbot is the one in control of who it's hiring as its clients.

Yeah.

Not literally being owned to them body and fucking soul.

Yep. Just wait until you get to that part.

They they, yeah. Hopefully you can fucking hear that.

Pointing out other side of the cardboard pointing out that the inherent slavery apologism in referring to slave owners as “clients” is, again, especially when Murderbot says things — when Martha Wells has her fucking slave character say things like, "My clients are the best clients." That is specifically, as they just said, um trying —

Pretending to inverse the power dynamic between slave and owner, as though — Murderbot saying “my clients” as though it's, as though Murderbot has any actual choice in who it takes on as its clients, instead of “these are just the latest fucking people to rent Murderbot out as a fucking slave.”

They are its slave owners.

But you know, “my slave owners are the best slave owners.”

Then hearing came online. I've had HubSystem

Oh, we're going to get to —

Oh, where this is the part —

First of all, this is a part that Martha Wells goes around brazenly lying to people about.

And so far, nobody's fucking called her out on it, because everybody she's lying to hasn't read the book to know they're being lied to.

And also, um, this is going to be — we're going to, we're going to spend so long on the next page and a half.

Uh, is it the page and a half? Let me let me scroll quick. That just like in The Books of the Raksura. Okay. No, it does. It does cover a few pages.

It's going to go to page 84. Um, we're on page 79. So, it's going to cover five pages. No, we're on page 78 still.

Uh, it's going to cover six pages. So, give or take. I'm not doing math. Um, I'm rounding.

Uh, this is gonna be the most fucking —

How would you describe the conversation I'm about to read off, if you can think of anything?

(from offscreen) Like, she was literally writing a first draft, kept getting stuck, decided, “I'll just start the conversation over from scratch and I'll delete the versions I don't like later” and then didn't do that. And none of the people who claimed to have edited caught it.

Lee Harris. Lee Harris, the same person who supposedly edited Rappor is taking credit for this.

Yeah, if you didn't hear any of that, if the fan's too loud or the cardboard's too muffling,

(from offscreen) crunch of Cheerios

And the through the crunch of Cheerios. Uh, they have decided to describe the conversation I'm about to read, cuz we've already laughed our fucking asses off the at, at this after staring at it and frantically flipping back and forth going, "Wait, what the fucking are you — what the fucking going on?"

This conversation is as though Martha Wells kept writing the conversation and then deciding, "No, no, I don't like it. I'm gonna throw that away. I'll just start the conversation over and we'll I'll just delete those extra versions afterward." But then she didn't do that. She didn't go back and edit out the earlier versions of the conversation that are now defunct.

And then the fucking editing this, Lee Harris, who's proud to put their fucking name on this fucking uh, they didn't fix it either.

So, it's it's, it's ridiculous.

Anybody who says that Martha Wells is a good writer needs to just look at this fucking conversation or, you know, like any of the lack of literally basic shit.

She literally called her villains in her newest fantasy series, she unironically named her villains “expositors” because she thinks she's fucking hilarious, because she doesn't know how to write exposition.

So, she's literally named the villains of the story expositors.

I'm not joking.

And she thinks that's funny and clever.

And it's just like, you are literally telling everybody who understands actual writing and media that you're a shit writer and you're bragging about it. It's ridiculous.

Anyways, um yeah, this is the start of...so fucking bad.

I've had HubSystem immobilize it, Gurathin

[sneezing sound]

Bless you.

> Gurathin said. Huh. Well, that explains a lot. I still had control of SecSystem and I told it to freeze HubSystem’s access to its feed and implement my emergency

And now I have the hiccups

> and implement my emergency routine. This was a function I'd built in that would substitute an hour or so of ambient habitat noise in place of the visual and audio recordings HubSystem made to anyone listening to us through HubSystem or trying to play back the recording. It would just sound like everybody had abruptly stopped talking.

That doesn't even work because they've already said a whole bunch of shit while Murderbot was unconscious.

And it's not like, it, because it's saying uh this would substitute an hour or so of habitat noise in place of visual and audio recordings, starting now, presumably, because we're not told it “I went back retroactively and deleted all that shit just to be safe”.

And also, everybody suddenly stopping mid conversation is going to be extremely fucking suspicious, and really fucking obvious.

Kind of like, Murderbot, Martha Wells, the other fucking slaves making sure to clean the hallway that the trap was set in and really obviously setting the body in an unnatural position to try and keep you alive. You ungrateful sack of shit. And Martha Wells, you racist fucking sack of shit.

She didn't write it that way to be framed that way.

Uh yeah,

> to anybody to anyone listening to us through HubSystem or trying to play back the recording, it would just sound like everybody had abruptly stopped talking. A

Also, I want to point out before we get further into this train wreck that's about to happen on page for you to witness: if they know that HubSystem is malfunctioning and trying to send their autopilot making them crash into a mountain….

Can you give me one good reason that Murderbot didn't suggest just turning it off, and why none of these people didn't suggest just turning it off?

It's actively trying to kill them and they know this.

So why are you leaving it on? Why are you still letting it record all of your conversations and things?

There's never any explanation for that, and it's completely absurd.

It's — especially because we know that these people know how to set up their own Wi-Fi and shit. They could even set up their own camera systems. Why, why are they leaving the, the computer system that's trying to kill them turned on? It's it's ridiculous.

> What Gurathin had said had evidently been a surprise because voices protested Rathi, Volescu, and Arada mostly. Pin-Lee was saying impatiently, "There's no danger. When it shot itself, it froze the download. I was able to remove the few fragments of rogue code that had been copied over.

And again, with dehumanizing it, these are slave owners dehumanizing their slave as an object. They are still by default referring to it as an it, as an object that they own. Even though we're supposed to pretend that they are “treating it like a person”, even though none of them have asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are, the basic thing you would do in this kind of situation where you have been referring to somebody as an it.

And if we go with their lie, pretending you didn't realize it was a person, so you've been calling it “it” specifically because you supposedly thought of it as nothing more than an object. So, why aren't they asking Murderbot’s pronouns?

in-universe, these are the fucking questions we have to ask.

Out of universe, the answer is that Martha Wells hates trans people. She hates trans people to the point that in System Collapse, the book published in 2023, she decided to actively shit on the concept of asking other people's pronouns.

Instead of just just genuinely have a character just casually fucking ask somebody else their pronouns, she decided to shit on that concept because she fucking hates trans people, and because too many people were very obviously pointing out the fact that nobody has ever asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are, and nobody else has ever asked anybody else what their fucking pronouns are.

It's all just assumed based on people's sex and is always correct somehow, even though this would be the perfect reason for her to actually finally confirm in the text what Murderbot’s pronouns are.

Yeah, she's, she's a she hates trans people and she especially hates non-binary people because — whatever, you get the fucking picture.

Ow, my ribs. Why? This book is cursing me.

> Overse began, “Do you want to do your own diagnostic? Because I could hear them in the room and on the security feed. So I switched to just visual on the camera. Mensah had held up a hand for quiet. She said, "Gurathin, what's wrong?" Gurathin said, "With it offline, I was able to use HubSystem to get some access to its internal system and log. I wanted to explore some anomalies I'd noticed through the feed." He gestured to me. This unit was already a rogue. It has hack — It has a hacked governor module.

And this is the part that Martha Wells lies to people about very fucking brazenly. She literally goes around telling people that Murderbot made the choice to tell its slave owners — that she refers to as clients — she goes around literally fucking telling people that “Murderbot chose to reveal that it was a rogue!”

She literally lies about one of the most basic and important plot points in this book.

We're at the 50% mark.

This is the, I don't know, I forget what the fucking you call it. It's — this is an important plot point. She — and she lies about it brazenly to everyone.

She literally tells people that Murderbot chose to tell these people that its governor module was hacked, when Gurathin literally hacked into its brain while it was unconscious and invaded its literal brain and tells everybody all of this fucking without any consent from Murderbot.

Gurathin literally fucking hacked into Murderbot's brain and looked through Murderbot's fucking brain and told everybody that it is in fact a slave who is not controlled by the governor module. And Martha Wells lies about this!

> On the entertainment feed, this is what they call an oh fucking moment. Through the security cams, I watch them be confused, but not alarmed. Not yet. Pin-Lee, who had apparently been just been digging around in my lo — who had apparently just been digging around in my local system, folded her arms. Her expression was sharp and skeptical. “I find that difficult to believe.” She didn't add, ‘You asshole,’ but it was in her voice. She didn't like anybody questioning her expertise. "It doesn't have to follow our commands. There is no control over its behavior," Gurathin said.

And this is the first time any of them have any clue of this.

So you'll notice that for the first 78 pages of this book, more than halfway through, these slave owners have thought that they've had complete control over Murderbot. So that when Murderbot was going into the DeltFall habitat to murder the other fucking slaves, especially after it became clear that there were no survivors and that you're going to have to, in their racist fucking worldview, they're just going to be there to have to kill the other slaves!

You'll notice none of them told Murderbot, "Okay, retreat. It's too dangerous." Or anything like that. Or again, you know, “let's try to make peace. Let's try to negotiate.” Anything like that. No, they use Murderbot as a weapon of murder against the other fucking slaves.

That's what happened as far as these fucking are concerned, because as far as they know, Murderbot literally, as I said in the video before now, could have literally been screaming internally the entire time it was being forced to go in there to kill the other slaves.

As far as they know, Murderbot's soul could be awash in anguish at the fucking idea of having to kill the other slaves. And it could have been doing everything in its mental fucking power, all in vain, to try and stop itself from killing the other slaves. A thing that they were ordering it to do and making it fucking do.

They could have told it to retreat at any point, but they didn't, because, in-universe we have — the *only* logical conclusion is that they wanted Murderbot to kill the other fucking slaves.

Especially Mensah, she explicitly was on the same fucking page as Murderbot that whole fucking time, and knew exactly what was going on, and went along, and in her mind created the fucking plan to stab the other slaves in the fucking back for the crime of trying to warn Murderbot.

Now, only just fucking now, on page 79, do these slave owners realize, "Oh, okay. So, we weren't actually in control of it.”

None of their past actions change in any fucking way. It just further shows that everything they were doing before now is exactly as evil as it fucking would be if this weren't written by a racist fucking who loves slavery and loves slavery apologism and literally wrote the whole thing just so she could have an excuse to write a scene where a slave says, "You have to stop me. You have to kill me."

Now they are finding out that Murderbot is in fact capable of disobeying their orders if it really wants to. Except for, you know, that other core programming that forces it to have to protect them whether it wants it or not. The thing it's not allowed to be a-fucking-ware of. That's a fucking thing.

[looking at computer] No, there's a network problem. Resume uploading.

And you'll notice that everybody, again, I keep bringing this up, and I'm never never going to stop bringing it up — Everybody in the fandom will tell you, "Oh, they started treating Murderbot like a

person as soon as they realized it was a person." And yet, that literally yet has yet to happen.

79 pages into the book, as far as these lying numbers go, that has yet to happen. They still are not treating Murderbot like a person at all. They are in fact still dehumanizing it.

And this will be the perfect opportunity for Murderbot to state that its pronouns are it/its even without having to be asked, because these people *could* be referring to Murderbot with they/them pronouns once they realize, "Oh shit, um, it could actually kill us if it wanted to." They could immediately start referring to it as they/them pronouns. And Murderbot could be like, "No, those are not my pronouns. No, call me it. That's my fucking pronoun." But we can't have any kind of conversation like that, because that would require Martha Wells giving any shits at all about anything going on here.

> “It doesn't have to follow our commands. There is no control over its behavior.” Gurathin said getting impatient. He didn't like anybody

> questioning his expertise either, but he didn't show it like Pin-Lee did.

Also, you notice the random mind reading that Murderbot's doing for no fucking reason. No explanation.

> “I showed Volescu my evaluations and he agrees with me.” I had a moment to feel betrayed, which was stupid. Volescu was my client and I'd saved his life because that was my job, not because I liked him. But then Volescu said, "I don't agree with you." "The governor module is working then?" Mensah asked, frowning at all of them. "No, it's definitely hacked," Volescu explained. When he wasn't getting attacked by giant fauna, he was a pretty calm guy. "The governor's connection to the rest of the SecUnit system is partially severed. It can transmit commands but can't enforce them or control behavior or apply punishment. But I think the fact that the unit has been acting to preserve our lives to take care of us

> while it was a free agent gives us even more reason to trust it.” Okay, so I did like him. Gurathin insisted, "We've been sabotaged since we got here. The missing hazard report, the missing map sections, the SecUnit must be part of that. It's acting from for the company. They don't want this planet surveyed for whatever reason. This is what must have happened to DeltFall.” Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge in and interrupt.

Again, weird mind reading. Why are we getting told what Rathi's motivations are? And this is not — no, _ — This is not Murderbot being an unreliable narrator, this happens in all of Martha Wells's stories.

We just get told other characters motivations out of nowhere as though it's fucking true, all the fucking time.

This is not, “oh, it's a character choice. It's, it's Murderbot being an unreliable narrator!” No, that's not what being an unreliable narrator means, not when it's a consistent fucking issue with the writer.

So,

> Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge in and interrupt. “Something odd is definitely going on. There were only three SecUnits for DeltFall in their specs, but there were five units in their habitat. Someone is sabotaging us, but I don't think our SecUnit is part of it.”

because it's One Of The Good Ones™.

> With finality, Bharadwaj said, "Volescu and Rathi are right. If the company did order the SecUnit to kill us, we would all be dead." Overse sounded mad.

See, that's a fine statement to make. She *sounds* mad. Not “Overse was mad and had been waiting for a while to say it” like she, like we've just done with fucking Rathi, and Gurathin, and Pin-Lee.

It's like, you can say what Murderbot thinks of their tone of voice and shit, but you can't just go around saying ‘’Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge

in and interrupt.’’ You're not writing in third person perspective, Martha Wells. That's not how the — That's not even how this works in limited person perspective, like she did in Witch King.

> Overse sounded mad. “It told us about the combat module. It told it us to kill it. Why the hell would it do that if it wanted to hurt us?” I liked her, too. And even though being part of this conversation was the last thing I wanted to do, it was time to speak for myself. I kept my eyes closed, watching them through the security camera because that was easier. I made myself say, "The company isn't trying to kill you."
> That startled them. Gurathin started to speak and Pin-Lee shushed him. Mensah stepped forward, watching me with a worried expression. She was standing near me with Gurathin and the others gathered in a loose circle around her. Bharadwaj was furthest back, sitting in a chair. Mensah said, "SecUnit, how do you know that?"

Literally addressing it as Slave. “Slave, how do you know that?” Because SecUnit is a synonymous with slave. Literally saying Slave, how do you know that? Jesus Christ.

Yeah, but you we're now on page 81. 81. What's the percentage of 81 out of 149? Let's see what percentage we're at.

We are 54% of the way through this story and they are literally still treating this slave, that they rented out and are slave owners of, as a fucking slave.

Despite all of the lying that the fandom will do to insist to you that ~um,,, actually,,,, they started treating it well as soon as they found out it was a person!!!~ a thing that supposedly happened on page fucking one.

We're 80 pages after that now — well, no, because they're lying about the page numbers. That happened on page nine, quote unquote.

We're now on quote unquote page 81, but the fandom will insist to you that “they started treating it well as soon as they found out it was not a robot because it took its helmet off to talk to Volescu!!!” Even though they know robots are people. Because racism so strong, so strong Martha Wells can't even keep her own shit straight.

> Mensah said, "*Slave,* how do you know that?” Even through the camera, this was hard. I tried to pretend I was back in my cubicle. “Because if the company wanted to sabotage you, they would have poisoned your supplies using the recycling systems. The company is more likely to kill you by accident.” There was a moment where they all thought about how easy it would have been for the company to sabotage its own environmental settings. Rathi began, "But surely that would—” Gurathin's expression was stiffer than usual. “This unit has killed people before. People it was charged with protecting. It killed 57 members of a mining operation engine."

Again, continuing the dehumanization. Literally referring to Murderbot as a fucking object. “This unit, this fucking object has killed people before. Killed people it was tasked with protecting.”

And it's like, wow, you mean people it was enslaved to be a meatshield for? Is that what you fucking mean? People who enslaved it, but we're phrasing it as “people it was tasked with protecting” as though that was a job that it took on willingly and not a thing it was literally enslaved to do as a fucking meatshield.

Martha Wells is so fucking racist.

> “It killed 57 members of a mining operation.”

And again, we're on page 82. We are 54% of the way through this fucking book.

And now we're getting this quote unquote bombshell dropped on us with zero setup. There was literally nothing in here to hint at this before now, because most likely, just like with the bombshell in The Cloud

Roads, it probably did not exist until Martha Wells wrote it down right fucking here.

And then she was too fucking lazy to go back and edit it into the rest of the story before now for basic consistency, foreshadowing, and setup.

Just like that bombshell that randomly gets dropped on you out of nowhere about Moon's past in The Cloud Roads, book 1 of The Books of the Raksura, a thing that comes so out of fucking nowhere that you — it's just it's like impossible to fucking believe that it actually happened, because that's the exact kind of thing that you the character would be thinking about and it literally just — it literally leaves everybody convinced, “yeah, Martha Wells literally just made this up 5 seconds before typing it into this section of the book and then was too fucking lazy to edit it in everywhere else”.

> “It killed 57 members of a mining operation.” What I told you before about how I hacked my governor module but didn't become a mass murderer, that was only sort of true. I was

> already a mass murderer. I didn't want to explain. I had to explain.

Because this is this is Martha Wells's excuse for not doing basic writing shit like foreshadowing and setup.

> I didn't want to explain. I had to explain. I said “I did not hack my governor module to kill my clients.

~I didn't — I didn't disable the fucking brain killing chip in my head that forces me to follow orders so I could kill my slave owners. That would be an evil thing to do!!!!~

Because Martha Wells hates slaves and wants you to hate them, too.

What in the fuck —

Why —

Like, here's a here's a here's a wild fucking concept for people: Yes, it would 100% be morally correct and

good, and we should cheer it on, if any slaves in the story ever actually managed to hack their governor modules for the sole purpose of killing their fucking slave owners.

That's a thing we should be cheering on.

That's not a bad thing that they should be ashamed of.

They should be cheered on.

Everybody should want that to fucking happen.

Everybody who's not a fucking racist slave slavery fucking worshipper wants that to happen.

> “I did not hack my governor module to kill my clients. My governor module malfunctioned because the stupid company only buys the cheapest possible components. It malfunctioned and I lost control of my systems and I killed them. The company retrieved me and installed a new governor module. I hacked it so it wouldn't happen again.” I think that's what

> happened. The only thing I know for certain is that it didn't happen after I hacked the governor module. And it makes a better story that way. I watch enough serials to know how a story like that should go. Volescu looked sad. He shrugged a little. “My viewing of the unit's personal log that Gurathin obtained confirms that.”

Also, again, you'll notice how they are just casually talking about completely and utterly invading Murderbot's personal privacy and going through its whole entire fucking life like it's a goddamn TV show.

Nobody ever apologizes for this either.

And it's just treat — being treated here like a totally normal thing that is so inconsequential we shouldn't be upset with it in any fucking way.

They literally hacked into this fucking slave's brain while it was unconscious after attempting to kill itself to save their fucking lives, and they just decided to

just just read its fucking internal diary that's literally connected to its goddamn brain.

They literally just waltzed around through its fucking memories and invaded its privacy more closely than it's fucking possible to do in real life.

This is like, akin to touching somebody else's daemon in His Dark Material series.

They went through Murderbot's fucking brain while it was unconscious and are just casually chatting about doing that. And nobody ever apologizes for it. And we're not supposed to be to see this as anything except, "Oh, yeah, that's a thing that can happen. That's totally fine."

> Gurathin turned to him, impatient.
> “The log confirms it because that's what the unit believes happened.” Bharadwaj sighed. “Yet here I sit, alive.” The silence was worse this time. On the feed, I saw Pin-Lee move uncertainly, glance at Overseers and Arada.

> Rathi rubbed his face. Then Men says said quietly, "SecUnit, do you have a name?"

Only on page 82 does anybody ask Murderbot one basic question about itself. It takes literally...what's 82 out of that number I typed in. Probably not too much of a difference. Okay, it is that much of a difference. We're now 55% of the way through the story. Only 55% of the way through the story, 55% of the way through the story, after all of these fucking slave owners supposedly “found out” on, starting on page one that “it's really a person. It's not just a robot. It's a person!”

The thing they were supposedly only figured out on page one, practically page one, because I think that whole thing with the graboid was over before page two or three was even done. [flipping] Okay, that happens on page four. And that's supposedly when they all “realize realize it's a person”.

And now only on page 82 does anybody to bother to ask it a single basic question about itself, such as, "Do you have a name?"

Still not asking what its pronouns are, because these _ are slave owners and they don't actually care. And also, Martha Wells hates trans people.

> I wasn't sure what she wanted. “No.” “It calls itself Murderbot.” Gurathin said. I opened my eyes and looked at him. I couldn't stop myself. From their expressions, I knew everything I felt was showing on my face, and I hate that. I grated out, "That was private. The silence was longer this time.

And it's like, yeah. Um, if again, if you're worrying that there's going to be personal stakes, stakes of any kind, lasting consequences of any time, don't worry. The next book that Gurathin shows up in, he and Murderbot are complete BFFs. It's all water under the bridge. Nobody gives a single shit, because Martha Wells is so desperate to make this not serious in every way possible.

We can't even keep something as simple as “these two characters don't fucking like each other” straight. Not even that. That can't even last.

> Then Volescu said, "Gurathin, you wanted to know how it spends its time. That was what you were originally looking for in the logs. Tell them." Mensah lifted her brows. “Well,” Gurathin hesitated. “It's downloaded 700 hours of entertainment programming since we landed. Mostly serials. Mostly something called Sanctuary Moon.” He shook his head, dismissing it. “It's probably using it to encode data for the company. It can't be watching it. Not in that volume. We'd notice.” I snorted. He underestimated me.

Again, another joke. Up here we get the super sad puppy dog eyes reveal that Murderbot just had its its name told to everybody against its will, and that makes it super sad and have puppy dog eyes, and then we are already down here, Murderbot snorting in amusement because ~oh you underestimate how much TV I can watch~

Again. We're not even allowed to sit with the supposed sadness of having this level of privacy

violated. We can't even do that for half a page. It's—we're already making a joke and moving on. Like, it doesn't matter.

> Rathi said, "The one where the colony's solicitor killed the terraforming supervisor who was the secondary donor for her implanted baby?"
> Again, I couldn't help it. I said, "She didn't kill him. That's a fucking lie."

Because again, jokes, jokes about how much of a nerd Murderbot is about soap operas.

> Rathi turned to Mensah. “It's watching it.”

Again, this is all a joke on the exact same page that we supposedly have Murderbot being very sad about its privacy being violated. And we are already moving on to a completely different topic to make jokes about and make it “haha it's so funny.” Don't focus even for five seconds on any of the things that are supposed to be dramatic and sad.

> Her expression fa

This is the start of the conversation that's completely nonsensical.

> Her expression fascinated Pin-Lee asked, "But how did you hack your own governor module?" Murderbot says, "All the company equipment is the same."

That's where the dialogue ends. And then Murderbot is just thinking to itself:

> I got a download once that included all the specs for company systems. Stuck in a cubicle with nothing to do, I used it to work out the codes for the governor module.

Also, slightly on topic, slightly off. If you want to just read a book, just the very start of the book, you can buy it… [suddenly looking down at All Systems Red] Um, it's peeling worse for the fucking record. It's the peeling is down to here. There's only this much left of the cover down here that's not peeling just from the sensing.

Before I get distracted, go to the Internet Archive and search The Black Cloud by... frick I just forgot his first name. It's either Fred or Frank Hoyle. It's some short name like Frank or Fred. I think it starts with an F. Um, you can just borrow that for like five minutes and just read the first few pages, where we get a perfect example of exposition. It's just perfect exposition.

A thing none of — no Martha Wells book has ever had that I have read.

[looking down at the book] Oh, it's making noises when it's peeling. That was a weird noise. I don't like that.

This book is fucking — Jesus Christ.

Go read just go look that up and just read the first, first I don't even think it's the first chap, like whole entire chapter, but it's just got perfect exposition and, and if you don't know what exposition is, it's just the basic groundwork required to fully appreciate what is going on in the story, a thing that Martha Wells never gives us, because she's bad at writing, because she's

clearly one of those authors who does nothing but write fanfiction and then just writes original fiction like it's bad fanfiction, without ever actually doing anything to write good original fiction.

Uh, where was it? I don't know why my ribs keep trying to hurt me today. I'm not sitting here in a different way than I normally do when I'm reading. My ribs keep trying to fucking dislocate. And I'm not exaggerating. I have EDS. That's a real fucking thing that can happen. It's fucking annoying.

So,

Pin-Lee asked, "But how did you hack your own governor module?" Basic question. The answer she gets is all the company equipment is the same. Nothing else.

That, that, that, that's treated as the answer to her question, and then, um it's never further questioned on it at all.

> I got a download once that included all the specs for company systems. Stuck in a cubicle with nothing to do, I used it to work out the codes for the governor module.

So, Murderbot is — Martha Wells is claiming that Murderbot was able to hack its new governor module because it got a list of passwords somehow, and somehow was the only SecUnit to get this list of literally every password for the whole entire company, and then used that list of passwords to hack it, to, to log into its governor module and turn it off.

And it's like, A) there's so many fucking coincidences there it's absurd. B) what about — what — how — literally how would it be the only SecUnit to get that shit? This’s so badly written.

And again, the only reason Murderbot starts off with its Governor module hacked is further slavery apologism. Because if it were just as enslaved as everybody else, on the exact same playing field as everybody else, that would make it seem uncool in Martha Wells's mind. Because she's the racist who

decides to write a story about slavery, but she hates the fucking slaves and thinks slave rebellions — and thinks slave rebellions are cliche.

[holding up book] I don't know if you can see the peeling on this fucking book, but it's getting worse and it's pissing me off. It's kind of showing up. Not really. It's irritating. My ribs.

I was going to say something else. Uh, okay. Yeah.

Um, but if that's — if all you have to do to hack a governor module is put in a fucking password, and apparently that password has never changed, and nothing has ever been done to, just do a reset on Murderbot's freaking thing,

(from offscreen) which she could have done instead of having the super duper brain module, she could actually add tension to the story by having Murderbot’s governor module actually get deactivated — reactivated.

Yeah.

(from offscreen) Four years after it's finally gotten used to freedom and then breaking free of that again is what actually makes it be like, "Oh, I need to get out of this fucking rut of just willingly staying a goddamn fucking slave. So, I'm get hightailing the fucking out of here and actually going to go live my life."

Yep. Hopefully that was all audible. Twin just pointed out, uh, it would have been so much better if Murderbot's governor module during this had gotten reactivated, just after Murderbot has finally got used to the idea — in Martha Wells's racist shitty way of version of the fucking world — has just gotten used to the idea of being free.

So, breaking free of it again could be the thing that finally convinces it, “oh, I need to — this is this is horrible for me. I cannot risk this ever happening again. I got to get the fuck out of here.” And actually running away to actual freedom instead of just Martha Wells treating being enslaved like it's a boring job because she's racist.

Um, okay. For this next part, I'm gonna…

Should I read just the dialogue first for the, the the ~I wrote out this conversation five times?~

(from offscreen) Just the dialogue.

Okay. Yeah, I'm just going to read just the dialogue for this next part.

It'll, it might take a bit while I find it, because it covers several pages. All right.

Gurathin is talking or No, no, hold on. No, it's just another bad paragraph where Martha Wells doesn't use paragraph breaks appropriately. So, she starts the paragraph talking about Gurathin and then Murderbot is the one talking, even though that's not how paragraphs are supposed to fucking work, especially when you're professionally edited supposedly — Lee Harris, you suck at your job! — And professionally published.

So, Murderbot saying, uh, looking at Gurathin, “you're wrong. HubSystem. Let’ what what did Gurathin say last?

Um, Gurathin said “it's probably using blah to encode data for the company.”

Murderbot says, "You're wrong. HubSystem let you read my log. It let you find out about the hacked governor module. This is part of the sabotage. It wants you to stop trusting me because I'm trying to keep you alive."

Gurathin says, "We don't have to trust you. We just have to keep you immobilized."

Murderbot says, "That won't work.

Gurathin says, "And why is that?"

Murderbot pins him to the wall. And Murderbot says, "Because HubSystem lied to you when it told you I was immobilized."

Mensah says, "SecUnit. I'd appreciate if you put Gurathin down, please."

Uh, nonsensical shit that's off topic. I got to scroll.

Mensah says, "SecUnit, can you keep HubSystem from accessing the security recordings from this room?"

Murderbot says, "I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out about my governor module."

> I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out my governor module was hacked, then deleted that section. I have the visual and audio recording transfer from SecSystem to HubSystem on a 5-second delay.

Mensah says, "Good’ uh blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

Uh, Mensah says, "Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?"

Murderbot says, "It might. I hacked HubSystem when we first arrived, so it wouldn't notice that the commands sent to the governor module weren't always being followed. But if HubSystem’s been compromised by an outside agent, I don't know if that worked. But HubSystem won't know you know about it.”

Did you get that? Did you guys get that? You notice how we first say that HubSystem knows about the hacked governor module, which is why it is letting them — it's letting these guys, the slave owners, know that Murderbot's governor module is hacked, specifically so that they won't trust it, because Murderbot is trying to keep them alive?

And then, and then Murderbot says “but actually, HubSystem lied to you guys about me being immobilized so that it would be easier for me to kill you!”

Even though we just said that HubSystem doesn't want the slave owners to trust Murderbot because it's trying to keep them alive.

That's — And then Mensah says, "Does hub — "

So, we establish HubSystem “knows about my hacked governor module and has made sure that you guys find out too so that you don't trust me.”

And then Mensah's like, "But the — does — ‘

Where's the — I need that Spike in Buffy scene.

Mensah's like, "Does HubSystem know about your hacked governor module?"

And then Murderbot's like, "It might. I don't know. But if it does, it won't know you know” Even though

we literally literally just fucking established that HubSystem does know about the hacked governor module and went out of its way to let *them* find out about it.

HubSystem knows about the governor module. It knows they know about the governor module.

Do you think we could play that fucking scene or find the fucking meme so I can read it off? ~Ben is glory. Glory is Ben. So, you're saying….?~

(From offscreen) Probably edit it in later.

Pause.

All right. I don't I don't think I could just play it on my phone or laptop and then hold my camera up to and we probably get copyright struck for it.

Anyways, if you've watched Buffy the Vampire Slayer, you can chuckle along with this my rendition of the conversation. Um, if you don't, you're going to be confused and I don't care. It's funny.

Spike: Uh, Will, now uh, don't turn me into a horn toad for asking, but what if we come across Ben?

Willow: I don't think a doctor is what Buffy needs right now.

Spike: Well, yeah, specifically not the one who also happens to be Glory.

Giles: what do you mean?

Spike: You know, Ben is Glory.

Willow: you mean Ben's with glory.

Xander: ‘with’ in what sense?

Anya: They're working together.

Spike: No, no. Ben is Glory. Glory's Ben. They're one and the same.

Anya, when did all this happen?

Spike: Not one hour ago. Right here before your very eyes. Ben came, turned into Glory, snatched the kid, and vanished. Remember? You do remember? Is everyone here very stoned? Ben, Glory, he's a doctor, she's the beast. Two entirely separate entities sharing one body. It's like a bloody sitcom. Surely you remember!

Awkward silence.

Xander: So you're saying Ben and Glory…

Anya: Have a connection?

Giles: Yes, obviously. But what kind?

Spike: Oh, I get it. Very crafty. Glory's worked the kind of mojo where everyone who sees their little presto changjo instantly forgets. And yours truly, being somewhat other than human, stands immune.

Willow: So Ben and Glory are the same person.

Xander: Glory can turn into Ben, and Ben turns back into Glory.

Anya: And anyone who sees it instantly forgets.

Spike: A cutie doll for the lady.

Giles: Excellent. Now, do we suspect there may there may be some kind of connection between Ben and Glory?

Spike:

That's my rendition of it. I'm pretty sure that's accurate. I just don't remember how Giles, uh somebody says all their lines. I already forget who.

Um, yeah, that's, that, that's a comedy scene that's supposed to be fucking funny, because only — Well, you got all the context from that conversation. I'm not explaining it. You got the fucking conversation there.

Anyways, that's what just fucking happened with this shit, but unironic and unedited. Lee Harris, even

though we're charging 17 fucking dollars for this, plus tax plus shipping.

So again, Murderbot says tells all of these people right, right now. “HubSystem knows’

I feel like I should be doing a diagram.

Where's a piece of paper?

(from offscreen) No idea. Well, that yellow notebook is my special.

I only took out one page. I had the other sketchbook right in here.

I'm tearing up this cheerios box.

All right, I have some fucking cardboard. Okay, so HubSystem. We're just gonna say HS [letters H S at top of cardboard]....GM with a fucking thing through it [GM in a circle with a slash on left]...and then all the stupid ass little slave owners over here. [group of stick figures on the right]

[pointing at each drawing in turn with their names and drawing lines to demonstrate]

Okay, HubSystem. We've just fucking established that HubSystem knows about the, the, the broken governor module, and made sure for the slave owners to find that out, specifically so that they won't trust Murderbot.

Little stick figure down here. [draws a single stick figure at the bottom]

They won't trust Murderbot, because HubSystem wants to kill them. I'm going to draw a little knife or something. I don't know. Wants to kill them.

So, HubSystem, knows that Murderbot's, Governor Module, is hacked, and made sure the slave owners, found out about that because HubSystem, knows that Murderbot, is trying to keep the slave owners, alive and doesn't want that to happen.

So, to make Murderbot's, job of keeping them alive more difficult, it wants the slave owners, to not trust Murderbot.

So, it made sure that they, know its governor module, is hacked and that it's been lying to them this whole time like some great fucking betrayal.

That's what we establish first.

Then we get the rest of the shit, where suddenly, as though this wasn't just fucking said, the characters are like, "But does HubSystem — does HubSystem know about the, the fucking — ‘

I could be using my blue marker, but it's somewhere else.

“Does HubSystem know about the hacked governor module?"

And then Murderbot's like, "Um, I don't know. It might, but if it does, it won't know that you know about it.”

Even though we literally just established that it does, and it told them specifically so they don't trust Murderbot, but now we're acting like, "Oh, uh, I actually don't know. Maybe it does, but it won't know that you know."

And this is a published, this is a professionally published book and professionally edited. This isn't supposed to be a first draft. This is the final fucking product that people are paying for that people are paying doors-stopper prices for. And and they're, they literally say this within two fucking pages. And then it might even get worse. It might even get worse. Here's my fucking diagram.

It's like, oh my gosh.

Okay, now I'll read you all of that with with the actual prose in there besides the fucking dialogue.

> Gurathin looked stubborn but didn't say anything. I figured that was all he had. Now it was my turn. I said, "You're wrong."

I can't really hold this up.

> “HubSystem let you read my log. It let you find out about the hacked governor module. This is part of the sabotage. It wants you — ‘

[pointing at diagram] it wants you wants you over here. The slave owner is over here. “It wants you to stop trusting me because now you know my governor module is hacked and it just told you that.

> “It wants you to stop trusting me because I'm trying to keep you alive.”
> Gurathin said, "We don't have to trust you. We just have to keep you immobilized." Right. Funny thing about that. “That won't work.”
> “And why is that?” I rolled off the table, grabbed Gurathin by the throat, and pinned him to the wall. It was fast. Too fast for them to react. I gave them a second to realize what had happened. for to gasp for and for Volescu to make a little eek noise. I said “because HubSystem HubSystem lied to you when it told you I was immobilized.” Gurathin was red, but

> not as red as he would have been if I'd started applying pressure. Before anyone else could move, Mensah said calm and even “SecUnit, I'd appreciate it if you put Gurathin down, please.” She's a really good commander. I'm going to hack her file and put that in.

Another joke. There's multiple jokes on this page, but that's the one I'm just calling out.

> If she'd gotten angry, shouted, let the others panic. I don't know what would have happened.

Imagine if they had panicked and we'd gotten a book where Murderbot actually kills its slave owners and we get to celebrate this and then it gets to do whatever the fuck it wants with its life that does not involve being used as slavery apologism meatshield for slave owners for the rest of its life until that finally kills it.

Uh,

> I told Gurathin, "I don't like you, but I like the rest of them, and for some reason, I don't understand, they like you." Then I put him down.

Also, murder — Gurathin is the only physically disabled person here. He's the only other cyborg in this whole fucking room, just for the fucking record. And Martha Wells picked him out of everybody to demonize, for this book only, to then later act like none of this ever happened because we can't even have interpersonal drama stakes.

> I stepped away. Overse started toward him and Volescu grabbed his shoulder, but Gurathin waved them off. I hadn't even even left a mark on his neck. I was still watching them through the camera because it was easier than looking directly at them. My suit skin was torn, revealing some of the joins in my organic and inorganic parts. I hate that. Everyone was still frozen, shocked, uncertain. Then Menah took a sharp breath. She said, "SecUnit, can you keep

HubSystem from accessing the security recordings from this room?" I looked at the wall next to her head. “I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out my governor module was hacked, then deleted that section. I have the visual and audio recording transfer from SecUnit to HubSystem on a 5-second delay.”

Again, I must ask, why aren't you just turning, turning these things off? It's very clear that the company isn't actually keeping track of what you're doing in real time, and there are extenuating circumstances where turning this shit off is the most reasonable course of action.

But whatever, that would be a thing that the protagonist have to actually do right, instead of just the villains doing everything wrong.

Uh,

“Good.” Mensah nodded.

And again, she's referring to the slave as slave. It's, it's an enslaved SecUnit. So that's like saying your fucking slave, that you enslaved to fucking haul lumber, just calling them “Lumber Hauler” or something. It's, it's it's just more dehumanization. Referring to your fucking slave, enslaved meatshield as meatshield. Can you keep blah blah blah blah blah, Slave? Can you keep blah blah blah blah blah?

And again, um, nobody, no further no continuation upon the, the conversation of “SecUnit do you slave do you have a name?” And then Murderbot said “No.” And then Gurathin said “it calls itself Murderbot.” And then Murderbot said “That was private.”

Nobody asks “What else should we call you?” It's just going straight back to “Okay, we'll just continue calling our slave our slave.”

No “Is there anything you want us to call you?” Martha Wells, of course, would have Murderbot say SecUnit, because she's a racist slave apologist, slavery apologist, but that's beside the fucking point.

They don't actually ask a follow-up question of “what should — what, what would you like us to call you?” Anything like that.

> “Good.” Mensah nodded. She was trying to make eye contact, but I just couldn't do it right now

Because the only kind of neurodivergent person that Martha Wells cares about is people who don't like eye contact and people who sometimes forget to eat. If you have any symptoms outside of those things that she sees as relatable and therefore good, then you are a serial killer, you're you're just a serial killer in her mind.

And I'm not just saying that. Go read The Books of the Raksura.

Uh

> “Without the governor module, you don't have to obey. You don't have to obey our orders or

> anybody's orders. But that's been the case the entire time we've been here.”

And I'll put a big giant —

Oh, I guess I can explain all the other asterisks I was keeping track of at the start of this series, huh? Okay. Well, I'm thirsty. Where's some fucking water?

Sorry.

Open that for me. It's already

What page are we on? Page 84.

Don't close fully, book. Open back up. Thank you.

Um, without —

Oh, yeah. All those asterisks I had been marking down at the start of this video series, that was for the whole reveal that HubSystems trying to kill them, and how there was zero setup for that.

And looking backwards at the story, it doesn't make sense, because HubSystem could have been taking so many...I think I might have said this already. I don't remember if I already explained all the asterisks I was keeping track of, but we're... I'm going to explain it again, shortly.

All the asterisks that I listed out in the start of the video. Kind of like my own version of setup for right now. Foreshadowing!

That's for the lack of foreshadowing that HubSystem is trying to kill people and is ~malfunctioning and trying to kill people for no reason~. The trope Martha Wells claims to hate, but she's doing the exact thing.

Um, yeah, those asterisks for were for all of the moments where HubSystem, if this were competently written, would have been doing things noticeably not normal, that in hindsight we can look back at and go, "Oh shit, that — there's the foreshadowing! It was trying to kill them the whole time! You can tell! Look! See?” But we don't get any of that.

And also the asterisk I'm putting right here for this statement, “Without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders.”

That's not actually true, because, um Martha Wells decided to reveal casually in an interview, um that all of the slaves in this series, especially the especially the, the the constructs, the, the cyborg slaves, but all of them, they are all “fundamentally core programmed”, even ignoring the governor module, to have to protect the people that they are enslaved to.

And this is on a subconscious level. Murderbot doesn't even get to be aware of it, and like, they literally cannot help it.

And Martha Wells decides to frame this the literal act of slaves being forced to protect their slave owners on the core, she used the words “fundamental core programming”. I'm not making that up. That's why I keep saying that phrase if you notice me saying it, because those are her own words.

This is their fundamental core programming, to be forced to protect their slave owners, their current slave owners. That's why Murderbot in the late, later in the series, it can kill other humans. It can kill humans in this book even, but it can't kill any of the PreservationAux team members, or let any harm come to them in any way, because they are its current legal slave owners.

They're the ones who fucking bought it. Uh, this is probably fucking spoilers, but when we get to the end of the book, you'll see a very specific, very short, glossed over line of dialogue that —

We'll get there. The PreservationAux team are Murderbot’s slave owners. It has literally no choice but to protect them, because it's fundamental fundamental core programming, aka brainwashing deep in its subconscious that it doesn't even get to consciously be aware of the existence of to fight against — it forces it to protect these people, because they are its current fucking slave owners. That's how this works.

Where the fucking were we? Yeah, Mensah saying “without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders or anybody's orders. But that's been the case the entire time we've been here.”

And I was just pointing that out, because it's, it's explicitly not true, because Martha Wells is so racist that she's presenting a thing so many competent sci-fi authors have presented as the nightmare scenario that it is.

Just off the top of my head, Octavia Butler's Xenogenesis Trilogy. Don't just fucking open that and start reading it willy-nilly. Look up a trigger warning list. Farscape does this. I had other examples. I just forgot them all. Um….Nope. I forget all of my other examples. I had I had several other examples.

Xenogenesis and Farscape both do this concept and treat it like the nightmare scenario it is. The concept that a slave is in forced — I, I'll wait until they get back.

The the idea that a slave is forced to have to protect, and to want to protect the very people enslaving them. That's a nightmare scenario that many sci-fi authors have written about as the nightmare scenario it is as it is.

But Martha Wells has decided she's going to write about that, but instead of treating it like a fucking nightmare and the ultimate form of cruelty and torture and stripping away of any form of autonomy that you should be horrified by, she presents this in this interview —

It's the interview is called Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries. And she literally opens it by sexually — it's an in-universe interview where she's talking to her characters like they're real people. And she literally opens this interview called Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries, I'm not, I'm not joking right now: She sexually harasses Murderbot to the point that it leaves the interview so she is just left talking to her favorite character ever, ART.

I'm not joking. I couldn't make this up if you asked me to think of a fake fucking strawman author who's such a terrible person, I could not have come up with this.

She literally titles this fake interview with herself Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries and then sexually harasses the protagonist out of the conversation, so that it's not even part of the interview that's supposed to be about it. And this is all treated like a joke.

And in that fucking interview, she tells us that Murderbot literally has zero autonomy, because its “fundamental core programming”, again, those are her fucking words, forces it to have to protect the PreservationAux team, because they are its current fucking slave owners.

And it's not even allowed to be aware of this.

And instead of this being presented as the ultimate nightmare scenario that so many fucking writers who actually grasp the basic shit like this, that is presented as a nightmare scenario in Xenogenesis /

Lilith's Brood and Farscape and all of those other examples I fucking forgot about.

Martha Wells tells us this, and then she expects us to treat this as a sign of how ~morally pure~ the slaves affected by this are, because they're so ~morally pure~ that that they, that that they have no choice but to protect the people enslaving them. Not even joking.

You can go read that shit for yourself.

Anyfuckingways. Um,

> The others were quiet and I realized she was saying it for their benefit as much as mine.

Saying the

> “without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders or anybody's orders, but that's been the case the entire time we've been here.” The others were quiet and I realized she was saying it for their benefit as much as mine.

And I'm going to say it again for your benefit. Dear readers, we're on page 86 now. Let me get my calculator. This book is so short every few pages adds a percentage. We're now 57% of the way through this fucking story.

So, I have to again insist to you, that 57% of this book is taken up by the slave owners assuming that they have full control over every one of the slave’s actions.

Meaning that every single action that Murderbot took in this was what they wanted it to do.

Mensah sent it into that habitat to kill the other slaves.

Mensah continued telling Murderbot to keep going, by not telling it to stop, to kill those other fucking slaves.

> She continued, "I would like to you to remain part of our group at least until we get off this planet and back to a place of safety. At that point, we can discuss what you'd like to do, but

> I swear to you, I won't tell the company or anyone outside this room anything about you or the broken module.
> I sighed managed to keep most of it internal. Of course, she had to say that. What else could she do

And like, basic actual things that are true, except in this in —

~Yeah, Mensah has to say that. That's what the slave owner has to say because she has no other choice.~ But then we're supposed to believe that she's genuine, because this is a slavery apologism story written by a racist white woman from Texas who doesn't actually think slavery is horrific and wants to worship slave owners. So Mensah's not lying.

> I tried to decide whether to believe it or not or whether it mattered which when I was hit by a wave of I don't care and I really didn't. I said okay. In the feed camera, Rathi and Pin-Lee exchanged a look. Gurathin grimaced radiating

skepticism. Mensah just said, "Is there any chance

I forgot we were still doing this conversation.

“Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?”

Let me get a drink.

Yeah, I forgot we were still doing this.

Uh,

“Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?” I hated to admit this, but they needed to know. Hacking myself is one thing, but I hacked other systems, and I didn't know how they were going to react to that.
It might. I hacked HubSystem when we first arrived, so it wouldn't notice that the commands sent to the governor module weren't always being followed. But if HubSystems been compromised by an outside agent, I don't know

> if that worked. But HubSystem won't know you know.” Rathi crossed his arms, his shoulders hunching uneasily.

Again, with the mind readading! You can say he seemed uneasy, but we're just stating, as fact, uneasily, and that's just bad writing.

And people, I know, I know there's going to be people saying, "But that's just, that's just Murderbot being an unreliable narrator." It's not. It's not. Stop making excuses for the shit writing that's present in this simply because it's in first person perspective when the exact same problems are in every single other Martha Wells story ever written. The only difference is those those are in third person perspective. Just because you want to try and make excuses for it here doesn't mean those excuses are actual excuses or justifications. Again, go read Rappor, the newest fucking shit. It's probably still got the typos in there.

> Rathi crossed his arms, his shoulder shoulders hunching uneasily. “We have to shut it down or

> it's going to kill us.” Then he winced and looked at me. “Sorry, I meant HubSystem.”

Again, another another joke. We're supposed to laugh at that and think it's funny. And again, they're still — nobody's asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are. They're just continuing to dehumanize it.

[looking at the book] Oh, it's peeling on the fucking — It's peeling on the stupid cover spine here. Can you fucking see it? It's peeling right fucking there. And on the bottom of the book, too. I hate this shit. This is — fucking Wolf brother, I will find it at some point.

Yeah, they're [not] treating it like a person. They're not even asking what its fucking pronouns are after they've been dehumanizing it as an object, as an it as an object explicitly in their heads, thinking of it as an object when they're using it/its pronouns.

And yet, nobody's asking it, “What pronouns do you want to use?” And then Murderbot could actually affirm, “Yes, my pronouns are it/its. Keep doing that.

If you call me anything else, I'll have to fucking kill you.”

Then, again, we're making more jokes because we can't. Yeah. Uh,

> Rathi said “we have to shut it down or it's going to kill us.” Then he winced and looked at me. “Sorry, I meant HubSystem.” “No offense,’ I said.

And again, Martha Wells claims to to hate the trope where ~robots go crazy and just start killing people for no reason~

HubSystem is a fucking robot. It's trying to kill people. Why are you complaining about the very trope you are fucking doing?

But again, we're not we're not supposed to consider HubSystem a robot or a person, even though we're given no fucking, I think I said this before.

If you're going to write a story where there's robots who are people, you need to actually examine what the fuck is the difference between a robot who is a person and a robot who is just a regular machine who's not a person. You have to ask that question and you need to fucking answer it. But we don't!

> “No offense,” I said. “So, we think HubS

Oh, my ribs. Why? I don't know why I'm not sitting any way differently to read this than I normally do. My ribs keep trying to dislocate. Stop it.

> “So, we think HubSystem has been compromised by an outside agent.” Bharadwaj said slowly as if trying to convince herself. “Can we be certain it's not the company?” I said “Was DeltFall’s beacon triggered?” Mensah frowned and Rathi looked thoughtful again.

Again, see saying he *looks* thoughtful? That's fine. You can't just say Rathi was thoughtful.

> He said “We checked it on the way back once we had you stabilized. It had been destroyed.” “So there was no reason for the attackers to do that if the company was their ally.

Uh yeah, again with the bad paragraphs, don't mention Mensah at the start of a paragraph where Rathi is talking. Just don't do that. It's just basic fucking

> “We checked it on the way back once we had you stabilized.” Uh, “it had been destroyed. So, there was no reason for the attackers to do that if the company was their ally. Everyone stood there.

I should check the phone's battery because before it got to 7% battery and it didn't fucking tell me. Okay, it's at 49. We're still good. Yeah, I ended the other video and then I was like, "Oh, I'll check what the phone battery is in." It was at 7 and it didn't tell me at all.

> Everyone stood there quiet. I could tell from their expressions they were all thinking hard. The HubSystem that controlled their habitat that they were dependent on for food, shelter, filtered air, and water was trying to kill them. And in their corner, all they had was Murderbot, who just wanted everyone to shut up and leave it alone so it could watch the entertainment entertainment feed all day.

And it's like, but they're not actually dependent on HubSystem.

Murderbot can hack all of this shit and could just run the shit itself. So why are we leaving HubSystem on if we're going with their ~oh it's, that's just totally a machine, we can, that's just not a machine. It's not a person or anything. It's just a regular machine. We can totally trust the slave owners who were lying about not knowing this slave wasn't a person the whole time. Totally trust their opinions that HubSystem is also not a person.~

But anyways, if we go along with their shit, why don't you just turn it off? You could literally just turn off HubSystem

then a blah blah blah saying, "Oh, the things look really bad." And then followed immediately by, "Then Arada came up and patted my shoulder. ‘I'm sorry. This must be very upsetting after what that other SecUnit did to you. Are you all right?’

The very first time any single fucking slave owner in this whole goddamn series has asked Murderbot, "Are you all right?" in any way, shape, or form — Ow — Except for when Mensah was interrogating it.

87...58% of the way through the story, because it's so fucking small. Also, I’ll keep going to the bottom of this page or — unless we are at the chapter? Nope. Okay,

I'm just going to end it now because my ribs keep trying to dislocate and I'm tired of it. Bye-bye.

08

August 26, 2025.

Possibly, wearing neon yellow for this isn't a good idea. You can see it reflecting off my arm and the book. Uh, that'll be interesting looking. Anyways, we are still on book 1 of 12 so far. It'll be 13 whenever, if PlatformDecay comes out before I'm done this.

We are on page 87 by their count, which is a lie.

It's actually kind of hilarious, the neon yellow of my shirt is so neon it's reflecting onto the book page and making it easier to read because it's less dark. That's hilarious.

Um, yeah, Murderbot asked, "Had the DeltFall people's uh emergency beacon thing been triggered?"

And they said it had gotten destroyed. Uh,

> Everyone stood there quiet. I could tell from their expressions they were all thinking hard.

> The HubSystem that controlled their habitat that they were dependent on for food, shelter, filtered air, and water was trying to kill them.

Oh yeah, cuz I'd pointed out “why don't they just turn it off? They clearly don't see robots as people, so why not just turn it off?”

This will never be answered by the book.

Blah blah blah. Then we get the first instance of a single person asking Murderbot if it's okay outside of Mensah coming to its cubicle to interrogate and harass it while it's like, actively losing consciousness.

Uh

> Arada came up and patted my shoulder. “I'm sorry. This must be very upsetting after what that other unit did to you. Are you all right?” That was too much attention. I turned around and walked into the corner facing away from them.

And that's the first even remotely attempting-to-be-positive interaction any of these people have made for, towards Murderbot.

She's actually offering comfort there, as opposed to the entire 86, 86 pages preceding this, where they've been done nothing but treat it like a slave.

And we are past the halfway point. We're like, closer to 60% of the way through.

Uh,

> I said “There were two other instances of attempted sabotage I'm aware of. When hostile one attacked doctors Bharadwaj and Volescu and I went to render assistance, I received an abort command from HubSystem through my governor module. I thought it was a glitch caused by the MedSystem emergency feed trying to override HubSystem. When Doctor Mensah was flying the little hopper to check out the nearest map anomaly, the autopilot cut out just as we were crossing over a mountain

> range. I think that was it. Oh, right. HubSystem downloaded an updated and upgrade package for me from the satellite before we left for DeltFall. I didn't apply it. You should probably look at what it would have told me to do.”

So, that's why I was making asterisks.

You can even see the, the neon. Look at that. It's hilarious.

You can see the asterisks um, that I'd been making in the other videos every time — a part where HubSystem should have been doing something to set up the fact that it's trying to kill people apparently, but then it didn't take any of those opportunities.

And it's like, okay, so it's bad. It's bad writing, because there's lack of actual fucking setup. And you'll notice uh, “I got an abort command from HubSystem through my governor module when I tried to save you guys from the graoid” But we didn't ever actually get an explanation of what that abort command was at all.

Never given any explanation.

Never allowed to focusing or think about it for more than literally blah.

And then Murderbot just — it's just — this is not how you do setup, because that — while this isn't setup, none of this shit that Murderbot is saying here was actually properly foreshadowed.

And there's also a million other instances of when we should have been getting setup and should have been getting foreshadowing where HubSystem should have been taking action, like, you know, when Murderbot was completely and utterly unconscious and wholly within its power for 8 hours straight, because it almost died rescuing them from a graoid?

If we're supposed to believe that HubSystem is genuinely trying to kill them, then you're going to have to really fucking explain to me why it didn't do anything for the 8 hours straight where it had no interfering uh, SecUnit to stop it from doing whatever it wanted.

And we don't get an explanation, because it's badly written.

So now if we're looking at in-universe motivations again, like with the slaves in the hallway who very clearly left a fucking warning and that warning was thrown back in their fucking faces in the most violent and hateful way possible, where Murderbot literally snuck behind them to stab them in the back as a show of gratitude for them trying to save its life simply because it was another slave.

So, with what we fucking know, HubSystem has only taken actions that were very easily counteracted:

It waited until Mensah was at the controls to turn off the autopilot.

It only sent Murderbot a single “stop doing that” command when it was supposedly known the whole time that Murderbot's governor module is hacked.

So if — and then Murderbot was literally completely and utterly unconscious for 8 hours straight.

Plus whoever who knows how fucking many hours just now. We never get an explanation for how much time has passed in this time skip that Murderbot has just woken up from.

It has to at least be like a day because they were on the other side of the fucking planet, and now they're back at their base, and it took them... I forget what they said exactly, but it took at least a day to get over there. So that means a day to get back.

So it's been at least 24 hours, and they've clearly been back for several hours if it's long enough for them to go rooting around in Murderbot's brain and all of this shit.

But we never get an explanation for this time skip here, and it's never contextualized and or presented as something we should be concerned about.

Uh, this is another instance where HubSystem has had all of the fucking time in the world and all of the opportunities in the world to kill these people, if that's what HubSystem actually wants to do.

So how are we supposed to actually believe that HubSystem genuinely wants them dead?

Because it's clearly not taking all of the fucking opportunities presented to it all throughout this book.

Again, again, it could have — it could have killed everybody in the hub while these other people were gallivanting off across the fucking ocean.

They wouldn't — Murderbot would have been gone that whole time, too. If we present — if we pretend that Murderbot is even remotely a threat to HubSystem or a consideration, then why didn't it [HubSystem] kill everybody who stayed behind on the road trip? Several-days-across-the-entire-planet road trip?

We we need explanations for this if we are supposed to take HubSystem seriously as a threat, a thing we are supposed to do, but it's impossible to do, because it doesn't fucking make sense.

And I am morally obligated to once again point out this is the exact trope that Martha Wells endlessly complains about and claims that she hates, but she's doing it unironically, saying that ~robots just go rogue and just start trying to kill people for no reason~.

It's just like, she's, she',s she's mad that Hal from a A Space Odyssey two-thousa, 2001, whatever that name was, uh, “just just decided to kill people for no reason”, even though he was — like, the movie makes it blatantly clear he's acting in self-defense, because he heard them say they're going to lobotomize him for not even actually making a mistake.

That's not “no reason”. That's called self-defense.

But anyways, um, what I'm trying to fucking say here is that there's more evidence in this goddamn text for HubSystem *not* wanting to kill them than there is for “HubSystem is murderous and wants to kill them”.

Because if, if works — the only other, the only other in-universe explanation for HubSystem completely

failing to take every single opportunity is that it's just hopelessly incompetent.

And it's like, that's the bad writing. That's the bad writing. That is the actual out-of-universe from the writing perspective answer.

All of the villains in this are completely and utterly incompetent and incapable of fulfilling the smallest fucking tasks or doing — or even *not* doing, as you'll see — the most basic things to not sabotage themselves.

But anyways, all of that is to say, the [Martha Wells's] intention is to say, that ~HubSystem is totally trying to kill them. Ignore every single opportunity that it did not take to kill them.~

It's ridiculous.

Yeah. So, this was Murderbot summarizing the two times before now, or the three times before now, that were supposed to be foreshadowing, but are not

foreshadowing, because foreshadowing requires actually giving the information to the audience.

This is not that.

> Mensah said, "Pin-Lee Gurathin, can you shut HubSystem down without compromising the environmental systems and trigger our beacon without it interfering?"

So, now we're finally asking this question, on page 88. Let me turn my laptop back on just so I can use the calculator so that I can update you every now and then at what percentage of the way through the story we are, because the book is so short that just progressing like, two pages is enough to get us up another percentage, which I think is hilarious.

So, on page 88 of 149, which is the last page number for the page of that, that's actually the story. These are all completely incorrect numbers from the get-go, though, because they're fucking lying. Yeah, page 88 is 59.06040%

Something something something 59% of the way through.

So, yeah, let me repeat that.

> Mensah said, "Pin-Lee, Gurathin, can you shut HubSystem down without compromising the environmental systems and trigger our beacon without it interfering?"

Again, I have to ask, why hasn't Murderbot just done this? Why didn't Murderbot do this the instant it realized that HubSystem is trying to sabotage them all?

It has HubSystem already hacked. It's, it's putting all this on a fucking uh, loop with audio and video and stuff like that. It's like, why don't you just turn it off?

> Pin-Lee glanced at Gurathin and nodded. “It depends on what kind of condition you expect it to be in after we're done.”

For HubSystem, that is.

> Mensah said, "Let's say don't blow it up, but you don't need to be gentle either."

So they're just going straight to “let's lobomize Hal” even though HubSystem in this case, which is Hal, is very clearly not actually trying to kill them if they would just apply logic.

You even just had Mensah say — Martha Wells, I'm referring to you, not that she's watching this.

Martha Wells went out of her way to have Mensah say to everybody, "Murderbot um, hasn't had to follow our orders this whole time, and it hasn't actually hurt us."

Okay. Well, are you going to say the same thing about HubSystem?

Are we not going to have that realization?

It's clearly under orders to at least try to make it look like it's trying to kill you. But it's also, again, clearly going about those orders, following those orders that it has to follow in the most easy to evade way

possible, while still making an attempt, *technically*, just like those other slaves *technically* set a trap: um, the fact that they put in their, in their fucking capabilities and vision and all this shit, the fact that they put glowing neon signs on it says “Don't walk here, this is a trap!” That doesn't change the fact that they did follow their orders. They made a trap.

They, they included a baked in warning with the trap, but they still did that.

So, HubSystem in here very clearly is under orders to attempt to kill them. So, it's it sure is attempting to kill them...by waiting until somebody who doesn't use the autopilot at all is in the seat of the helicopter when it turns the autopilot off. So that she literally just goes, "Shut up, autopilot. Shut up, Google Maps. I'm not driving into a lake or whatever."

Waits until uh, Murderbot is already in the middle of just shutting down a whole bunch of system thing, information things that it's coming into its head and it's just throwing them all in the trash automatically, to send a cease and desist order that it also, along

with all the other shit, immediately goes into the trash.

Then it didn't do a single thing for eight hours straight.

Then it didn't do a single thing for several days while these people were gone and Murderbot was unconscious.

And now they're like, "Okay, uh, yep. We're, we're just going to — we're going to have — we're going to —

RIP to HubSystem. Cuz they're just leaping straight to “let's lobotomize it” instead of talking to it. Maybe asking it some fucking questions. Just basic yes or no questions. Anything like that.

> Mensah said, "Let's say don't blow it up, but you don't need to be gentle either." Pin-Lee nodded. "We can do that." Gurathin cleared his throat. “It's going to know what we're doing, but if it doesn't have any instructions to stop us if we try, it may do nothing.”

Because again, we're insisting that the enemies are, and in this case HubSystem, it's just incompetent, because there's no other way for these protagonists to accomplish anything, because they are incompetent.

So the villains and antagonists and in this case another slave, HubSystem, just has to be even more incompetent than these fuckers are, just so that they don't die from the, the perspective of “oh yeah HubSystem is obviously evil” and it's like, okay, but how many opportunities has it had to fucking kill you all so easily and not taken a single one of those opportunities?

But we're supposed to ignore that card.

> Bharadwaj leaned forward, frowning. “It's got to be reporting to someone. If it has a chance to warn them that we're shutting it down, they could supply instructions.”

Oh, I forgot. We're doing the part where the characters just sit the fuck around talking about the plot instead of doing the plot.

It's not nearly as bad in here as it is in most other Martha Wells stories, Witch King and System Collapse and Network Effect.

BaredwageThe book's peeling even more. It's infuriating.

Uh, Witch King, System Collapse, Network Effect, to name a few where it's really goddamn really taking up — The reason Network Effect is the size of a full-length novel is because 90% of it is shit where nothing happens. They literally are just sitting around talking about the plot instead of progressing the plot.

A thing that's happening right now, but this only lasts like, I think one page in, and it's like, the majority of everything going on in Network Effect and Witch King.

Witch King, they are literally just sitting around on a useless fucking boat, and then they go to another useless fucking boat, and they're not doing anything besides abusing children.

And then Martha Wells is trying to frame abusing children as the exact same thing as conservatives hating trans people by *saying* that we — trans people — abuse children.

So, she's having her characters actually abuse children and then saying that them being told they're abusing children, a thing they're actually doing, that's, that's showing how oppressed they are, because fucking — because Martha Wells is a bigot.

Uh,

> Bharadwaj leaned forward frowning. “It's got to be reporting to someone.

Oh, I Oh, for these things, I'm making a transcript and it, it makes an automatic transcript, but it cannot spell the word Bharadwaj in any way.

I, I forgot I meant to come up with a nickname for her so that I can Control+F and replace that nickname because it, it',s it comes up with so many fucking completely wrong things, because whoever designed it is racist and isn't like —

Even though I've said her name however many times it has appeared in 88 pages, I'm saying it the same way each time. You would think they'd have the option to “add this word to the dictionary” or something, but no.

> “If it has a chance to warn them that we're shutting it down, they could supply instructions.” “We have to try it,” Mensah said. She nodded to them. “Get moving.” Pin-Lee started for the door, but Gurathin said to Mensah, "Will you be all right here?" He meant would they be all right with with me here. I rolled my eyes. “We'll be fine,” Mensah said firmly with just a touch of ‘I said now’

Because Martha Wells — I'm not gonna go into it. There's so much. And if you think, "Oh, wow. I'm

really loving this drama, this, these this tension between Gurathin and Murderbot — " No, it literally gets erased the next time Gurathin shows up in this series. They're just BFFs. No acknowledgment of any of this, because Martha Wells is bad at writing.

> I watched him with the security cameras as he and Pin-Lee left just in case he tried anything.

No, I would love for Gurathin to try something, because that would at least be something happening. That would be actually interesting.

But in a Martha Wells novel, the good guys, she always considers them to be 100% good, and the bad guys are always 100% evil.

You can't have any like you it we can't have Gurathin be on the side of the good guys but actually an actual, actual asshole. No, we just have to brush that under the bridge and pretend like that never happened because, um, reasons.

She did this with River in The Books of the Raksura, too.

Uh, there's a whole lot of bigotry going on with River and his character.

Um, but if we just look at what's meant to be there: River is an asshole who goes around beating the shit out of slaves and all of this shit, and threatening the protagonist. And then we, again, just exactly like Gurathin, he just decides, "Oh, okay. I'll be nice now."

And then and then there's — it's just, it's ridiculous. It's bad. It's bad writing. Characters are never actually allowed to —

Oh, yeah. Yeah, it's because Martha Wells's protagonists are the most Specialist specialS ever to exist. So, nobody is allowed to dislike them for long if they're not an evil villain who is every racist caricature in the book.

Also, we got the Humble Bundle thing where you get the ebooks and I — specifically so that I could check,

without having to spend $20 or however the fucking much on it —

She still has the racist line in Emily in the Hollow World, where she literally says that white people look like fancy posh gentlemen, and Black and brown people look like they should be working in the fields. Unironically.

She kept that in for the 2025 reprint and republish in ebook form instead of just fucking removing it.

So, if you were thinking, “I'll give Martha Wells the benefit of the doubt. She could still learn. She could still decide to stop being racist…”

No, she literally left that shit in. That's in Emily in the Hollow World. A book so bad it almost put me to sleep.

And the only book recently that has almost put me to sleep was An Episode of Flatland, which I honestly recommend reading, just if you need to fall asleep, get an episode of Flatland by Charles Howard Hinton

and just start reading that. It'll put you to sleep. It's public domain. You can go suffer through that. Fall asleep to it. Don't ask me what the fucking is going on. It's terribly written and it will literally make you fall asleep.

Uh, anyways,

> Bharadwaj pushed herself herself up a little, a little Bharadwaj pushed herself up a little unsteadily. MedSystem is isolated from HubSystem, correct? That's why it hasn't been having failures. You could use it to unpack the download.”

And that's really convenient. Why is only one fucking system trying trying to kill people? Why? Well, I mean, because that would actually involve stakes, a thing we're not actually allowed to have.

Imagine how interesting it would be if everything here were trying to actually kill them. Earnestly trying to kill them, not letting them mosey around for 8 hours when it could be killing them in so many

fucking ways. They even brought up here that it could have fucking put poison in their food.

And it's like, yeah, Martha Wells, are you going to explain to me why it didn't do that? If, if you want me to believe it's actually evil and is actually trying to kill them, because that's not a conclusion I can fucking come to at all.

Uh,

> Volescu took her arm uh took her arm and they moved into the next cabin to the display surface there. There was a little silence. The others could still listen to us on the feed, but at least they weren't in the room and I felt the tension in my back and shoulders relax. It was easier to think.

What are you doing?

> I was glad Mensah had told them to trigger our emergency beacon. Even if some of them were still suspicious of the company, it wasn't like

> there was another way off this planet. Arada reached over and took

I have another question because again, it's just bad writing, bad, inconsistent writing that doesn't make any fucking sense with everything else that gets established about Preservation, and these characters in particular.

I need a real, real, real strong, convincing argument for why I'm supposed to believe, in any fucking universe, that Preservation — the whole entire country thing, would let these people go here and have them stranded on a planet with no way off early except for calling a company.

This is bad. This is just like objectively shit writing. Even if you like the characters, it's objectively shit writing, because everything that happens in here, it doesn't make sense when you consider the entire rest of the series as it is written.

Preservation would never make people do this kind of shit, and yet, it is in this book, because Martha Wells is a shit writer.

She is literally too lazy to simply reread this short of a fucking book, that most people finish reading in two hours when they're not doing Active Reading and actively discussing the plot and the bigotry and the flaws in the writing like we are right now.

People read this in two hours or less. There is no fucking excuse for Martha Wells not rereading her own godamn first book in this series before writing the rest of the series to make sure it doesn't contradict it, because this contradicts everything else in the series.

Which is why I am now forced to conclude that these fuckers are slave owners on purpose, and are just lying about it.

Because that's, that's literally the only conclusion you can come to after you read the rest of the series and then look at what they say in here as objectively false

bullshit. “We just didn't know robots were people and we thought you were just a robot so we didn't think enslaving you was wrong.” That doesn't make any sense for what everything else in the series —

And again, it doesn't make any fucking sense for why Preservation would allow them to be here, stranded, like, literally stranded without somebody on call up on a goddamn spaceship somewhere at all times.

It's bad writing.

If you're fucking — if you literally cannot keep anything consistent from book one throughout the entire rest of the series, that's a sign you are a shit writer. And Martha Wells does this with all of her books. She can't even keep the concept “demons are weak to water” straight in Witch King. And she did this exact fucking in The Books of the Raksura.

Let me get a drink.

She establishes so many things in book 1 of The Books of the Raksura and tries to convince us it's totally normal for these people's society….

But then the entire rest of the series comes along and disproves everything we were shown in this.

But it's not on purpose! She's not showing it was wrong on purpose to make us think it was actually wrong!

It's just inconsistently bad writing that's not supposed to be contradictory, but it is, and that retroactively literally kills any any liking you can have for the characters in the first book, because the entire rest of the series shows you this kind of shit they're getting up to is not even acceptable by the standards of everybody else in their species!

If everybody else in their species were allowed to know the shit they are getting up to, everybody would be declaring war on them for fucking humanitarian reasons to overthrow this ruling class and rescue all of their fucking slaves.

And this is a species that keeps an entirely separate species of slaves! And the, the Indigo Cloud court, the, the thing our protagonists find in the first book, they are so horrible to their slaves that even the rest of the slave owners would be fucking horrified and losing their goddamn minds if they ever found out about it.

That's what's going on here.

Nothing in this book — that we are just supposed to accept because it's book one and we're not given any context — none of it makes sense with the entire rest of the series.

And the fact that these people are lying about not knowing that robots are people and thinking Murderbot was just a machine, as though they don't have robot people on their entire planet, that's just one of the many things that doesn't make sense.

You're going to — there's no explanation for why Preservation would allow especially the goddamn

president, people as important as this, they wouldn't let a janitor do something like this shit.

Stranded on a planet in the Corporation Rim without a spaceship overhead at all times or a special fucking Doctor Who intergalactic cell phone to call for help at any times.

It doesn't make sense because it's badly written, because Martha Wells doesn't give a shit and neither does her publisher.

We're on page 90 now. I just want to see if that's at the 60% mark because it's funny. Yep. We are now 60.40% of the way through this goddamn story.

Anyways, um

> Arada reached over and took Overse's hand. She said, "If it isn't the company that's doing this, who is it? There has to be someone else here." Mensah rubbed her forehead, wincing as she thought.

Those two extra sec units at DeltFall, which we I still have my paper here. We're calling them Edith and Fran. Uh, those two extra SecUnits at DeltFall came from somewhere.

> “SecUnit, I'm assuming the company could be bribed to conceal the existence of a third planetary of a third survey team on this planet.”

And again, just referring to Murderbot as SecUnit, aka Slave, instead — because Murderbot said “the name Murderbot is private”. Nobody decided to follow that up by asking what else they should fucking call it, because they are still not treating it like a fucking person.

If some — if you ask somebody's name and then somebody else tells you their fucking dead name, which doesn't make sense, but what the fuck ever! If somebody says, "Oh yeah, their dead name is XYZ," and then they say, "That's private." Your follow-up question is, if you actually care about the person you're talking to, “what would you prefer I call you instead?"

It's so simple, and yet these fuckers can't do it.

And I'll tell you why: It's because Martha Wells wants to treat it as normal and awesome, the concept of just calling a slave Slave. SecUnit means slave. There is no such thing as a SecUnit that's not a slave in this goddamn setting. They are referring to Murderbot as Slave.

It's not progressive. This is not treating Murderbot like a person.

Again, they still have not asked it what its fucking pronouns are, so, they are just continuing to dehumanize it by calling it an object, a thing they explicitly are doing when they call Murderbot by it/its pronouns, because that's what they've been doing from the start when they claim they didn't know it was a person.

And yet, nobody has asked “what pronouns should we call you? I feel like calling you an “it” is offensive.”

And then we could just have Murderbot say, "No, those are my pronouns. I'll kill you if you call me anything else."

But we can't do that, again — I'm not going to go over it all over again.

That would require Martha Wells to not hate trans people, a thing she's incapable of doing at this point. She — it's 2025. In February of 2025, she admitted she still doesn't know what non-binary means. Like the most basic definition, she doesn't know. She doesn't know what agender means. She doesn't care about Queer people.

Anyways,

> I said the company could be bribed to conceal the existence of several hundred survey teams on this planet. Survey teams, whole cities, lost colonies, traveling circuses, as long as they thought they could get away with it. I just didn't see how they could get away with making a

client survey team, two client survey teams vanish.

Cuz we're just making more jokes.

or why they'd want to. There were too many bond companies out there, too many competitors. dead again.

Stop trying to bring up the capitalist system that's supposed to be going on in here, because that doesn't make sense. S

So, “but in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.” But safety is a primary concern for people from Preservation because they love OSHA. They, they, they do OSHA. They like OSHA. They want OSHA.

— Let me turn the fan off.

So again, literally the fucking writing is so shit that we can't even keep basic concepts like “people from Preservation like safety and would pay more to get a

security company that's not going to use the cheapest shit ever and endanger them, wouldn’t, you know, wouldn't be using slave labor?”

So the only conclusion, again, we can possibly come to here is that actually, they wanted to use slave labor, or they would have picked a company that doesn't use slave labor.

They have the resources of an entire planet and beyond at their exposable, ex, disposal. Why did I say disposal?

They have the resources of literally the entire fucking planet to fund one stupid little survey with less than 10 people.

They can afford to hire a company that doesn't use slave labor, but they fucking chose not to.

And especially because, fucking what's it called? I swear these book titles are so useless. Fugitive Telemetry. The one with the lie on the cover where we made it seem like Murderbot was going to interact

with a robot that — a new robot character that we would get to know, and then they exist for like five pages maybe.

Um, yeah, that established, blatantly, that nobody who's actually trying to help slaves trusts a single person on Preservation.

And it's like, yeah, I can see why, these fuckers literally went out of their way to pick a security company that uses slave labor as meatshields. So, yeah, I can see why nobody wants to let a single person on Preservation know that they do stuff to help slaves escape.

It's like, that's, that's what — that's what you've written, Martha Wells! But we're just supposed to pretend that Preservation is totally awesome and does *totally* think slavery is wrong.

And it's like, no, nope. No, that's not how that works.

Dead clients were terrible for business.

I don't actually believe that. It's it's ridiculous statement.

> “I don't think the company would collude with one set of clients to kill two other sets of clients. You purchased a bond agreement that the company would guarantee your safety or pay compensation in the event of your death or injury. Even if the company couldn't be held liable or partially liable for your deaths, they would still have to make a payment to your heirs. DeltFall was a large operation”

of 30 people. We're considering that a large operation. Apparently,

> the death payout for them alone will be huge.” and the company hated to spend money. You could tell that by looking at the recycled upholstery on the Habitat's furniture. “And if everyone believes the clients were killed by faulty SecUnits, the payment would be even higher once all the lawsuits were filed.”

You can't just say this stuff and not explain to me why there's not a ring of people just going around faking their deaths to get all this money. That's the obvious question.

And also, I don't believe any of this shit. We're just saying shit and then we're never given anything to actually back any of this shit up. because the company, as far as this book is concerned, doesn't actually exist. It's never actually doing anything. It's not really an actual fucking threat. It's just kind of ephemeral.

It's, it's like a little — it, it's, it's not really there. We're just saying things and it's not actually true.

> On the cameras, I could see nods and thoughtful expressions as they took that in. And they remembered that I had experience in what happened after SecUnits malfunctioned and killed clients. “So, the company took a bribe to conceal this third survey group, but not to let them kill us,” Overse said.

Again, you'll notice we're all just still standing around talking about the plot instead of doing the plot.

If you watched my Witch King videos, uh, and suffered through that with me, you'll notice that was like, the entirety of Witch King.

They were literally just sitting around on the goddamn boat not accomplishing anything besides abusing children, harassing brown women, and like, threatening violence upon brown women for no reason except because it's it's funny, apparently.

Uh,

> “So the company took a bribe to conceal this third survey group, but not to let them kill us.” Overse said. One of the good things about scientist clients is that they're quick on the uptake.

(Sarcasm begins) My slave owners are so smart and awesome and cool. (End sarcasm)

> “That means we just need to stay alive long enough for the pickup transport to get here." "But who is it?" Arada waved her hands. We

Oh, it the transcript also spells Arada's name wrong. I don't know if I'm pronouncing that different each time. It's for the record, it's spelled A R A D A. Anyways,

> “but who is it? Arada waved her hands. “We know whoever it is must have hacked control of the satellite.” In the security camera, I saw her look towards me. “Is that how they took control of the DeltFall Sack units through a download?”

Still talking about this shit and it's not actually interesting.

> It was a good question. I said “it's possible, but it doesn't explain why one of the three DeltFall units was killed outside the hub with a mining drill.”

We weren't that was Belladona, the first non-Murderbot slave. Murderbot, proper noun, capital M, that we've met in this book. met.

I say, cuz they're already fucking murdered and are framed as one of the good ones because they're already fucking dead.

> We weren't supposed to be able to refuse a download and I doubted there were other sec units hiding hacked governor modules.

Because fuck you, Martha Wells. Because Martha Wells said, "Yeah, Murderbot is the only good slave who has ever hacked their fucking governor module for some fucking reason."

Why would you assume that? Why would you doubt that there are any other SecUnits hiding hacked governor modules except for the part where Murderbot is a fucking serial killer and wants to murder every other slave?

> “If the DeltFall group refused to download for their SecUnits because they were experiencing the same increase in equipment failure that we were, the two unidentified units could have been sent to manually infect the DeltFall units.”
> Rathi was staring into the distance and through the feed I saw he was reviewing my field camera video of the DeltFall habitat. He pointed in my direction, nodding. “I agree, but it would mean the DeltFall group allowed the known the unknown units into their habitat.”
> It was likely. We had checked to make sure all their hoppers were there, but it had had been impossible to tell if an extra one had landed and taken off again at some point.

You know, they never did search that vehicle shed where people could literally have been hiding if they had literally just gone in there before it fucking rained. So, I guess whatever characters are hypothetically in there, they're just going to die on this planet, alone, because nobody's going to fucking look for them.

Um, where was I?

> Speaking of which, I did a quick check of the security feed to see how our parameter was doing. The drones were still patrolling and our sensor alarms all responded to pings.

It's really, really, really just too fucking convenient and making it too easy that Murderbot, despite being knocked violently unconscious from a suicide attempt, all of the drones that it had set before, they're just they're just still doing their thing perfectly as ordered, no interruption to any of that, because because we we can't have any actual stakes or threats to our characters!

> Overse said, "But why? Why allow a strange group into their habitat? A group whose existence had been concealed from them?”
> "You'd do it," I said. I should have kept my mouth shut. Keep them thinking of me as their normal obedient SecUnit. Stop reminding them what I was. But I wanted them to be careful.

Do I even have to explain the slavery apologies in there?

> “If a strange survey group landed here, all friendly, saying they had just arrived and oh, we've had an equipment failure or our MedSystem’s down and we need help, you would let them in. Even if I told you not to, that it was against company safety protocol, you'd do it.” Not that I'm bitter or anything. A lot of the company's rules are stupid or are just there to increase profit, but some of them are there for good reason. Not letting strangers into your habitat is one of them.

Because everybody that you don't personally know is a threat to you. Totally normal progressive statement to make.

> Arada and Rathi exchanged a wry look. Overse conceded. “We might. Yes.” Mensah had been quiet listening to us. She said, "I think it was easier than that. I think they said they were us."

And that's supposed to be really dramatic.

> It was so simple. I turned around and looked directly at her. Her brow was furrowed in thought. She said, "So they land, say they're us, say they're us, that they need help."

That's the end of the sentence. Oh my god. So they land, say they're us, that they need help. Period.

> “If they have access to our HubSystem, listening to our comm would be easy.” I said when they came here they

And we're still standing around talking about this shit. We could be doing stuff. They're literally just standing around a room and it's not even for Murderbot's benefit so it can actively rest from almost dying because of a suicide attempt.

Instead, we're just standing around the room not doing anything, because Martha Wells can't think of anything else that they could be doing right now that's fucking relevant.

Especially because they have futuristic walkie-talkies in their fucking heads. There's nothing to stop them from all running around doing shit while they're having this conversation.

Uh,

> I said “when they come here, they won't do that.” It all depended on what this other survey group had, whether they had come prepared to get rid of rival survey teams or had just or had decided on it after they got here. They could have armed air units, combat SecUnits, armed drones. I pulled a few examples from the database and sent them into the feed for the humans to see.
> MedSystems feed informed me that Rathi, Overse, and Arada's heart rates had just accelerated. Mensah hadn't because she had already thought of all of this. It was why she had sent Pin Pin-Lee and Gurathin in to shut off HubSystem.

And also, I'm going to point out we're on page 93. Let's see what, where, every time I stop to check the page number or something, we're just going to see what percentage we're at now. 62%.

Uh, I have not watched the fucking show and I don't plan to unless it randomly shows up in the fucking — off topic, slightly off topic, but we started watching Stargate because Stargate: Atlantis season 1 showed up for $3 in the bargain bin at Dollar General like two decades ago at this point.

So, that's the only way we will ever watch this fucking TV show, when it's in the bargain bin at Dollar General in 20 years or so.

Um, what was I saying?

Oh, I don't — I haven't watched the fucking show, but I've seen people discussing it online, and I know one thing that they've changed is that uh, Doctor Mensah has a panic attack in the first episode, and it's not — I hope it's not treated as funny. Nobody seems to be saying that it's treated as a joke to mock people who

have anxiety, but people are mad about that because “She's so strong. She doesn't need any help in the book”.

Because they are ableist and don't grasp that what Martha Wells is doing in here is the fucking trope where all the other characters are allowed to ask for help, but the Black woman has to be able to handle all of her own emotions herself and is never “weak”.

“Weak” in quotation marks, never needs anybody else's help or anything like that. So again, a trope, a harmful fucking trope that's saying that Black women are always the most competent emotionally, they don't need anybody else's help. You are meant to lean on them for emotional comfort, but they don't get to lean on anyone. It's a continuation of the fucking mammy trope.

And by specifying all throughout this thing that Mensah is the one who is staying calm and collected and has uh, complete control over everything and especially here, just something as simple as her heart rate *not* increasing even without an outward show

of fear at the at the idea that people are going to come and murder them. That's just playing into that trope.

So like, yeah, it's fine actually for the TV show to show Mensah having a panic attack, because in the fucking graboid thing, her heart rate had increased and was pounding while they were flying back, because she does in fact have emotions and does in fact feel fear, and that's not something that she should be ashamed of.

And the TV show is doing — I presume, yeah, I think season two got announced. Presuming they're going to follow the general tra, trajectory of the books, which they might not. That's setup for Mensah later having PTSD that the books don't really actually give a shit about.

Anyways, whatever.

> Nervously, Rathi said, "What do we do when they come here?" I said, "Be somewhere else.”

Line break.

Also, I'm not sure why that's not just a new chapter. That would have been a good spot to end the chapter. When did chapter five start? Skip…. No, it's too far. It's chapter —

Can we go? All right. I can't find chapter five. Let's see if this book has a table of contents because Witch King didn't, which I —

Yeah, this doesn't. Of course not. Why are we not doing table of contents anymore? What is this shit? Is it — are books these days being optimized for e-reader instead of print so that they think, “oh yeah, you don't need a table of contents? Why do you need to know what page chapter 5 starts on?” Like, like I'm going to now out of spite for the lack of table of contents, I'm flipping back to the start of chapter 5 until I find it and then I'll tell you.

Okay, chapter 5 started on page 77. We're on page 94. So, if we'd ended that chapter there, which I think we should, because it's just a natural place to stop.

Anyways, there's a line break instead of a chapter break.

> It may seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help, but as I said before —

— This sounds like somebody pointed out this shit out to Martha Wells as not making sense, and a blatant fucking plot hole when we're supposed to see these characters as competent and knowledgeable and having basic logic.

This, this, this is reading exactly like somebody's told told her, :It doesn't make sense. Why wouldn't they immediately shut down the computer system that they know is trying to kill them and immediately just leave if it's very obvious that people are coming to kill them?”

So, it sounds like she just put this in here to brush that aside and pretend it's actually ~very reasonable for them to not turn off the computer system that they

don't see as a person that they think is trying to kill them.~

That doesn't make sense. That's very — It's not on the level of caricaturizing somebody, but like this is like... breaking the fourth wall.

> It may seem weird

This is on page 94.

> May seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help. But as I said before, these weren't intrepid galactic explorers. They were people who had been doing a job and suddenly found themselves in a terrible situation.

Okay, that's, that's not excusing the plot holes, that's, that's just — that honestly feels like a fourth wall break to tell me to stop complaining that the characters actions make no sense with everything that we're supposed to believe about them.

Yep.

We're doing — we're just we're just defending the plot holes right now and the lack of character characterization actually affecting the plot.

It's just — that's what we're doing on this page, I guess.

> And it had been hammered into them from the pre-trip orientation to the waiverss they had to sign for the company to the survey packages with all the hazard information to their on-site briefing by their SecUnit that this was an unknown, potentially dangerous region on a mostly uncerveyed planet. They weren't supposed to leave the habitat without security precautions, and we didn't even do overnight assessment trips. The idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it, and that that would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp.

It's not that hard to grasp. You've only seen one thing that was even remotely dangerous, and that was a graoid at the bottom of a very obvious crater that for anybody actually paying attention.

Oh, I think Arada is supposed to be a biologist? Don't quote me on that, but I feel like Arada is supposed to be a biologist. Or maybe it's Overse that's a biologist, and then she's on, on the side a field medic?

Any biologist would look at all of these craters spread around this island and think, "Yeah, there's probably animals living down there." Pit trapping ant lions. Look up pit trapping ant lions. It was hilarious when the characters in Bleach shouted “pit trapping ant lion!” after I found some pit trapping ant lions. Look that up. Pit trapping ant lion. They're not ants. They're things that eat ants... like lions, I guess.

Um, yeah, this the first two paragraphs on this page just seem to be a a, a retro — an edited in and very hamfisted attempt to just justify the fact that none of the characters are just doing things that make sense

like, oh, “oh, the idea that leaving here could be safer is it's hard to grasp.”

Uh, not at all.

[looking at phone with head tilted] Uh, somebody's asking me a question about actual grasses. So, hold on. Let me pause this.

[video pauses, then resumes]

Okay, I'm back. Somebody asking me a question about sedges, which I think are a type of grass, but they might not even actually be a grass. I know they're a monocot. I don't know. They're, they're interesting looking, but I don't know anything about them, unfortunately.

Um, yeah, the hamfisted “stop questioning what the plot demands and just go along with it!!!!” even though it doesn't make sense for the characters.

Um,

> the idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it and that that would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp.

Except, again, they are from Preservation. They don't take everything that the evil capitalist corporation says at face value.

Um, the only thing they've found that was even remotely dangerous was a graboid at the bottom of a very obvious crater that may as well have giant glowing neon signs on it says, "Don't go down here. There's animals living down here."

Like, at the very least, if you go to a place that's very obviously got craters that are very obviously maintained in some way because they're not filled in with grass like it's an ancient impact or something —

At the very least, you're going to think, "Okay, something is clearly going on here at a regular interval enough to keep this this crater not covered in grass. So maybe let's not go there.” Maybe it's a land

— Maybe there's some weird alien fantasy land whirlpool going on.

And this time it happened to be graoids, but you don't fucking know. It could be anything. So why did they go down there?

It doesn't — It genuinely doesn't make sense for any of these fucking characters, um, when you actually get established with what they're supposed to be like in the whole rest of the series, none of their actions make sense.

So now we have two paragraphs on page 94 just, just trying to beat us over the head with “stop questioning the fact that the plot is completely overshadowing anything that makes sense for the characters as they are established.”

I'll reread you these two paragraphs on this page because it's funny. Uh, it's it's very clearly like, Martha Wells breaking the fourth wall because somebody, somebody in the editing process said it — they really — somebody told her had to have told her,

“It really doesn't make sense that they haven't just left or turned off the computers that are trying to kill them.”

So on page 94 after a random page break that should have just been the end of the chapter, it would have been a natural place to end the chapter~ We get this after that page break.

> It may seem weird that Mensah was the only human to think of abandoning the habitat while we waited for the beacon to bring help, but as I said before, these weren't intrepid galactic explorers. They were people who had been doing a job and suddenly found themselves in a terrible situation. And it had been hammered into them from the pre-orientation trip to the waivers they had to sign for the company to the survey packages with all the hazard information to their onsite briefing by their SecUnit that this was an unknown potentially dangerous region on a mostly unsupervis unsu surveyed planet. They weren't supposed to leave the habitat without security precautions and we

> didn't even do overnight assessment trips. The idea that they might have to stuff both hoppers full of emergency supplies and run for it and that this would be safer than their habitat was hard to grasp

Does not — does that not sound exactly like breaking — like, that's *really* funny. Yeah, that's hilarious.

Also by “the on-site briefing by their SecUnit” instead of Murderbot saying “by me”, that's really weird.

Like, like I started reading that, I was like, no wait, are we breaking the fourth wall right now?

What's the dude who's doing this — the Jurassic Park review? He keeps Yeah. Crim Crimson Rogue. Some dude on YouTube who does book reviews named Crimson Rogue — He has one very racist comment on a video from several years ago. So, I'm hoping he fucking listened to a single person in the comments that wasn't doing the exact same thing.

But he's constantly talking about fucking like, you know, how the plot shouldn't overshadow the characters. Characters shouldn't be doing things just because it's what the plot demands when when the charact — when it doesn't make sense for the characters, because this literally just seems like somebody kept —

Multiple people commenting to Martha Wells, that “this doesn't make sense. Why haven't they just left?” And then the answer is “because the plot. Because that's not what's supposed to be happening in the plot yet.”

So then this shit got written to like break the fourth wall, and she's not subtle when she does this. Yeah, it's not subtle.

When she's caricaturerizing her critics, — Mhm.

> But when Pin-Lee and Gurathin shut down HubSystem and unpacked the satellite download that was meant for me, they grasped it pretty quick. Bharadwaj outlined it for us on

> the comm while I was getting my extra suit skin and my armor back on.

And you notice we still don't know what the fucking a suit skin is and it will never come up after this book ever again. It would take 5 seconds to clarify. Is it an actual extra layer of skin or is it just is it just wearing underclothes?

Underclothes, one word.

Extra layer of skin.

Extra layer of skin. That's four words.

That's all you got to do. Either give us four words, or one fucking word. Just define what the absolute fuck a suit skin is, because we keep getting told that's a thing that exists. There's injuries and stuff involving it.

Is it clothes or is it fake skin? The most basic shit in the world and we never get an answer, and it makes it impossible — along with all the other lack of

descriptions — to actually imagine anything that's going on here when it actually fucking matters.

> Bharadwaj outlined it for us on the comm while I was getting my extra suit skin and my armor back on. “It was meant to take control of SecUnit.

It was meant to take control of Slave with a capital fucking S because we are they are still dehumanizing Murderbot and literally treating it like a fucking object.

The the actual fucking response to, "Hey, don't call me by that name. That is private." The follow-up question is, "What would you prefer we call you instead?" Murderbot has never told a single one of these fuckers to call it SecUnit, they're just doing that, the exact same thing they were doing before they supposedly “started treating it like a person”, which is what they're supposedly doing now, despite not asking what its pronouns are and not asking what it actually wants to be called.

Also, Martha Wells is ridiculous and racist and bad at writing.

Uh,

> “It was meant to take control of *Slave* and once the instru— and the instructions were very specific.” She finished.

Why are you saying “she finished”? She's still talking. Okay, okay.

Dialogue start. It was meant to take control of slave and the instructions were very specific. End that dialogue. She finished. Period. Then she continues talking. Once Slave was under control, it would give them access to MedSystem and SecSystem.

Why is she — Why are we saying “she finished” like she's, she's not finished talking yet. She's still talking. You — she “she added, comma blah” would work, but you can't say “she finished” and then she's literally still talking in the same fucking paragraph.

> I got my helmet on and opaqued it. The relief was intense about even with finding out that the combat override module had been removed.

More jokes.

> I love you armor and I'm never leaving you again.

And then Murderbot is literally never given armor ever again in the entire fucking series, and the only reason it continues to be drawn with this fucking armor on the covers, I'll even go get System Collapse. You're free to say anything you want while I'm getting that, fucking 5 seconds.

So disgusting, this — and they made it even skinnier on this. They're like, going out of their way to make it as skinny looking as possible cuz she also hates fat people. Uh, the only reason Murderbot continues to be drawn in this armor in the books is the racism. Let me put this back.

(from offscreen) And you just go get it.

What I said —

(from offscreen) Didn't you just go to get that?

Yeah, I was just literally just showing it to show that, that was uh System Collapse, chronologically as as far as the main normal numbering system is concerned, that's supposedly book seven.

I'm not counting it as book seven. Um, yeah. The only reason Murderbot continues to be drawn with this armor, despite it literally never having access to it ever again, in the entire fucking series, is that it is plausible deniability.

Martha Wells gets to tell everybody that Murderbot is a dark-skinned person of color, um, but then — in the English covers at least, it's always drawn with this armor on, which means all of the racist fans get to whitewash it and project the Aryan fucking stereotype, the Aryan ideal onto it. “And they're not *technically* wrong, because look!!!! We never see what Murderbot looks like. We never get an actual description of it in the books. We just have Martha

Wells in multiple interviews telling people it's a dark-skinned person of color!!!”

And that is so that she gets plausible deniability and free brownie points for saying, "Oh yeah, my, my protagonist *totally* not white, totally a person of color, guys." But then always — never actually *showing* that, never *actually describing it* that way, so that she gets the points for saying this, without ever actually having to do anything that could possibly um, drive away racist fans.

And now — I'm going to keep saying it. Now she gets that plausible deniability. She gets to cash that check in by shilling for Apple, who is whitewashing the dark-skinned protagonist that she's been telling people for eight years is a dark-skinned person of color.

But now it gets whitewashed as the literal fucking Aryan ideal, and she gets to just *not say anything* about the fact that she told everyone it was a person of color with dark skin before now, “because well,,,, she never actually put that on the book covers!!! She never actually put that in the books themselves!!!

So,,,, uh,,, it's not actually whitewashing!!!!!! She's not cheering for whiteashing!!!! She's just literally profiting off of white supremacy in its most basic and blatant form…”

And not even just white supremacy, white patriarchy, because it's a literal cis white man. It's not even a white non-binary person. It's a white cis man.

But yeah, that's why Murderbot is always in the armor on the covers despite it literally never having access to armor ever again throughout the entire rest of the fucking series. Ever again.

It's, it's all to to fuel the fucking racism and give her plausible deniability where she gets to claim that Murderbot's a person of color, so, you should celebrate her book and support it by giving her your money, but, but also she gets to shill for Apple and gleefully cheer on and scream from the rooftops how happy she is that she gets to profit off of white supremacy, because her protagonist is being whitewashed.

Anyways, um

> Mensah clicked onto the comm. “Pin-Lee, what about the beacon?” “I go a ghost signal when I initiated launch.” Pin-Lee. Pin-Lee sounded even more exasperated than usual, “but with HubSystem shut down, I can't get any confirmation.” I told them over the feed that I could dispatch a drone to check on it. A good beacon launch was pretty important right now.

And you'll notice we never actually have gotten a description of what the beacon is yet. It's just a thing and we are never actually going to get any information upon what exactly it entails, until, that is, until after that's relevant to the plot, like every other fucking thing, because, because it's badly written and Martha Wells is under the impression that keeping information from the reader on purpose is somehow clever and it's — no it's just bad fucking writing.

> Uh, Mensah gave me the go-ahad and I forwarded the order to one of my drones. Our beacon,

We're doing this again.

Our beacon was a few kilos away,

As in kilometers, not kilograms. Kilometers. The few times in this book that doing the correct thing would have increased the length, a thing they're desperate to do, and then they still don't do the correct thing.

It's like, just put in kilometers. That would have given you that many extra letters with which to pad your fucking run time. The thing you're so desperate to do, you are inserting entire full blank pages.

But no, you want to do this instead just to be annoying.

Our beacon was a few kilos.

Also, as as my twin has pointed out, klick. Just call it a fucking klick. That's military slang. A thing it would make sense for a murderbot to use. Just say, "Our beacon was a few klicks away.” That's so simple and is not obnoxious like using kilo to mean kilometer is

without first establishing we're talking about kilometers.

Our beacon — this —

(from offscreen) klick is already military slang.

That's, Yeah, I just said that. I literally just said that.

> Our beacon was a few kilos (kilometers, klicks) away from our habitat site for safety. But I thought we should be have been able to hear it launch. Maybe not. I had never had to launch one before. Mensah had already got the humans organized and moving. And as soon as I had my weapons and spare drones loaded, I grabbed a couple of crates. I kept catching little fragments of conversation over the security cameras. “You have to think of it as a person,” Pin-Lee said to Gurathin.

Because this is we're further pretending that these fuckers didn't know it was a person the whole entire time because they literally come from a planet that is

probably half the population is robots who are considered people. This is fucking — this is more slavery apologism trying to convince us, the readers, that “they just had no clue it was a person” even though the entire rest of the series goes on to blow that out of the fucking water completely and utterly.

> “It is a person!” Arada insisted

Because you know we just love lying to the audience. Because they are lying to the audience right now and they're lying to Murderbot more importantly, because they didn't *have* to be lying here.

We could have shown them coming from an actual backwater planet where it's just like, 20 fucking I don't fucking know, an actual backwater planet where they have absolute like zero technology and they don't even know what what they're doing, and they've never seen robots in their fucking lives.

But we don't do that, because that would require actually for them to be poor people who are not rich — disgustingly rich academics which is what they are.

And Martha Wells also hates poor people on top of all of the other minorities she hates. She hates poor people.

So, we don't actually get a Preservation where anything these characters are fucking lying about is actually a fucking thing it's possible for them to have thought.

They could have genuinely not known that Murderbot was a person if they, if they were poor, if they were from an *actual* backwater rural planet where nothing happens and they have no contact or no news channels with any of this shit, and they just don't genuinely don't know.

But that's not what the entire rest of the series is, because Martha Wells hates poor people. So, of course, these people have to be actually rich and, and powerful and literally have a society run on slave labor from robots that they they admit are people, but we're just supposed to pretend that they're not — in that the robots are not enslaved, because they call it guardianship instead of owner.

It's all the racism.

> Rathi and Arada sprinted past me carrying medical supplies and spare power cells.

You know how I just pointed out that they were all just standing around discussing this fucking when they could have been doing something? They could have been doing this fucking right now. They could have just started packing the hoppers while they were doing all this.

Or, you know, better yet, they could have all packed the fucking hoppers before Murderbot even woke up, because again, it was at least a day to get back from the DeltFall habitat across the entire goddamn ocean to the other side of the fucking planet, and then at least several fucking hours, if not a whole another day, of Murderbot being unconscious in order for Gurathin, Volescu, and Pin-Lee to be doing all that shit.

But we never acknowledge that time gap. So the story literally just stops and starts when Murderbot is awake, because it's badly written.

> I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it could go. We didn't know what we didn't know that whoever hit DeltFall would show up at any second, but it was a strong possibility.

So why were you all wasting literally at least several hours, if not an entire day, while Murderbot was unconscious, [not] getting this shit done?

(from offscreen) Gurathin, if this is while they're —

Talk louder.

(from offscreen) While they're hacking into Murderbot's brain, that means they're also going past all whatever proprietary firewalls and shit block that kind of thing from happening.

Yeah, it's ridiculous. They just pointed out if they're going — if they are literally hacking into Murderbot's

brain to the point that they've downloaded and reviewed its whole entire personal fucking log, as long as all of the shit with its governor module, that means that they they just fucking hacked through all of the proprietary firewalls that the company would have in had in place.

So yeah, we're supposed to believe that they're capable of doing all of that, but then they also just don't do anything to actually improve the situation at all.

(from offscreen) Magical hacking there when the plot required.

Huh?

(from offscreen) Magical hacking there when the plot requires it. No other time.

Yep.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper systems.

Have I mentioned lately how much I hate the fact that there are two hoppers? It's just needlessly over complicated for literally no reason. Just make it one fucking helicopter. They don't need to be two of them. It's obnoxious. It's, it's just unnecessary. Just get rid of the small one. Just say we have a godamn ship. It's a ship. It's a planet ship. Call it something. It's ridiculous.

Especially it's it doesn't make any sense. Why would the — why would the big hopper not be big enough for all of them to fit in it? It doesn't fucking make sense. It doesn't fucking make sense.

It's literally just there to to be fucking redundant and over complicate things completely fucking needlessly.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper systems.

Also, we still don't know what the fucking they look like in any capacity. These things could be bright neon yellow, and we don't fucking know. They could be mini uh Millennium Falcons. We don't fucking know. They

could be shaped like giant robot dogs. We don't know. [laughing] Maybe cuz they're called hoppers, they're shaped like giant fucking kangaroos. None of these options are off the fucking table, because there is zero description of them in any fucking way whatsoever. We don't even know what color they are.

(from offscreen) They could be shaped like flying grasshoppers from A Bug's Life.

Yeah. Like this is bad writing and people are like, "Oh, well, it's just because Murderbot wouldn't care."

It's in all of her things. It's in all of her stories.

It's even in Murderbot stories that are not from Murderbot's perspective.

So shut the fuck up and stop trying to defend bad writing with in-universe justifications that don't even make sense and don't fucking apply, because it's a literal consistent problem throughout all of the author's writing, not just this shit.

> Gurathin had come out to check the big hopper and the little hopper system to make sure no one other than us had access to that had access and that HubSystem hadn't messed with their code. I kept an eye on him through one of the drones. He kept looking at me or trying not to look at me which was worse. I didn't need the distraction right now. When the next attack came, it was going to be fast. “I do think of it as a person.” Gurathin said, "An angry, heavily armed person who has no reason to trust us."

So Gurathin is the one now doing the slavery apologism of demonizing slaves by saying that slaves are all just violent evil murder machines. But it's bad when he does it, but totally fine when Murderbot and the author herself do it, because Martha Wells is racist and has no sense of irony.

[looking at bug on book] It's a freaking fruit fly.

Like literally, literally “an angry, heavily harmed person — armed person who has no reason to trust us.”

Murderbot literally goes around murdering other slaves with this exact justification. But it's only presented as a bad thing because Gurathin is being ~mean~ to Murderbot in particular, the only slave that matters as far as this fucking series is concerned.

> “Then stop being mean to it”, Rathi told him. “That might help.”

Again, we literally just affirmed in the fucking text that Gurathin is being mean. *Mean*.

Cuz this is marketed for adults. And this isn't — this is an *adult* book, this is a book marketed towards adults, this isn't young adult. This isn't middle-grade. This is for adults. It's meant to be a serious story for fucking adults.

> “They know their SecUnit successfully gave our SecUnit the combat module.” Mensah was saying over the command “and we have to assume they received enough information from HubSystem to know we removed it’

What?

> “But they don't know that we've theorized that.”

Why are we talking about this shit? Just shut up. Stop talking. The same three conversations again. Yes. Yes. We are just saying this again.

“They know their SecUnits successfully gave our SecUnit the combat module.” Mensah was saying over the command “and we have to assume they received enough information from HubSystem to know we removed it. But they don't know that we've theorized their existence.”

> When SecUnit, *Slave* — when *Slave* cut off the HubSystem’s access, we were still assuming this was sabotage from the company. They won't realize we know they're coming.”

And it's like, "Nobody gives a fuck, just get the fuck on with the goddamn plot! There is no point in saying all of this again.

> Which is why we had to keep moving. Rathi and Arada stopped to answer a question about the medical equipment power cells, and I shooed them back to the habitat for the next load.

Notice the phrasing there, shooing them like they're little children. Like the fucking Mammy trope that I just fucking said. Murderbot is also an example of the Mammy trope. Uh, I'll link a fucking video in the description for this for a video that is like literally required fucking viewing if you are going to talk about the Murderbot Diaries, or just in general, I'm going to make everybody watch it. You have to fucking watch it.

Yeah, Murderbot is literally the Mammy trope. Especially because in Network Effect, one of its slave owners explicitly, literally in the books, one of its slave owners refers to it as mom.

It's fucking ridiculous.

> The problem I was going to have is that the way murderbots fight is we throw ourselves at the

> target and try to kill the shit out of it, knowing that 90% of our bodies can be regrown or replaced in a cubicle. So, finesse is not required.

And yet somehow somehow we're just supposed to accept the fact that Murderbot has won every fight it's gotten into, except for when it got snuck snuck up on.

And also yeah “90% of our bodies can be regrown or replaced in a cubicle” because we hate disabled people in a Martha Wells universe

(from offscreen) And stakes.

And stakes! We hate disabled people and stakes. You'll notice that Murderbot has been catastrophically injured twice now, first with the graboid, then with the fucking getting attacked by the enslaved — other slaves, and then attempting to kill itself.

And all of those injuries, they're magically gone in between each fucking incident. The ma — the injuries

are magically gone. Murderbot doesn't have to continue dealing with a weak arm or anything from whatever the fuck happened in the graboid fight, still don't fucking even know which limbs were affected besides something in its abdomen in some undescribed way.

It dislocated its fucking arm, its its shoulder in them the DeltFall fight, and got shot in the hip three times. I have my little stick figure here. No, correction. Got shot in the hip four times. Got shot in the shoulder three times. Then dislocated that shoulder. Then apparently lost its whole entire hand from getting shot in the hand.

Also um got completely violently knocked unconscious the first time and then got shot in the chest to the point that it instantly almost fucking died right then and there, and all — that's all, that's all gone — and experimental brain surgery from these people literally going into Murderbot's brain and hacking into its fucking brain, the inorganic the mechanical parts of its brain, and fucking with its brain, as people who are not qualified to do this shit.

All of that has happened, and it's all, it's, it's all magically healed, because it's literally just exists to cause drama for the about two fucking pages where it lasts, and then it gets instantly healed because Martha Wells hates physically disabled people and doesn't actually want the characters to actually have to struggle.

Imagine if the injuries from that first attack by a graboid were still persistent when Murderbot went into the DeltFall habitat, and then all, it then — it then has to deal with all of that shit, barely able to move while all this is going on.

That would require actually caring about physically disabled people and just basic storytelling of, if — there have to be consequences to your character's actions, and those consequences have to fucking matter, otherwise, your audience is going to get sick of your shit and leave, which is what is happening with this series.

I literally did the fucking calculations a few weeks ago for this, for everybody that read this book, only 19%

of the people who read this book bothered to read System Collapse.

19%. That's all that's left of the audience initiated by this fucking book.

Only 19% of that audience is left — gives enough fucks left to read System Collapse, the book that's supposedly number seven, and it's so bad most people have given up and, and that was — and System Collapse was so fucking terrible and continuing to go nowhere, that that is — most people who were leaving reviews said that was the moment that the series “jumped the shark” and they will not be reading the next one.

So, I can't wait until fucking PlatformDecay comes out so I can run the numbers on that and see what the audience retention's at after.

Like, it's ridiculous because there's only so long you can string your fucking audience along with a story that clearly does not give a single fucking about anything at all!

> When we left the habitat, I wouldn't have access to the cubicle, even if we knew how to take it apart, which we didn't. It was too big to fit in the hopper and required too much power.

And you might be thinking, "Wow, so we're finally getting an actual stakes! So Murderbot's injuries will actually mean something!”

No, don't hold your fucking breath.

It doesn't have access to a company cubicle for the entire rest of the series after this book, and yet, it still continues to get magically healed every single time, because despite supposedly being made up of proprietary technology, you can drop it off in any random doctor's office and they will fix it instantaneously perfectly.

Zero trouble at all. The proprietary technology doesn't actually exist. And not in the way of “Murderbot was lied to and told that it can't get healed any other way,” No, it just doesn't exist

because it's shit writing and it doesn't actually impact anything.

Even though we keep getting told that “we're so expensive to repair”, but you can drop it off at any doctor's office! Literally any medical bay can repair Murderbot! Zero actual fucking intensive things required, even though it's supposedly got cyborg arms and legs, it's badly fucking written and it just gets worse the longer it goes on.

That's why only 19% of the audience remains for System Collapse. And now after System Collapse, I'm, I think we should run a vote. What — What number? We're gonna have to wait like two fucking years to check the ratings for PlatformDecay so that it has time to catch up to all of the other numbers.

What number do — what number of audience retention do we think will have — be remaining to rate PlatformDecay when it comes out?

I'm going to I'm going to vote right now.

(from offscreen) I say 15 or 10%.

They said 10 to 15%.

I'm going to go with 10% audience retention. if not 8%. Those are my votes. You can feel free to also vote.

This is going to be on the Internet Archive. You can leave a review just, just predicting what vote. Um we will literally have to wait until like 2028 to compare the numbers for PlatformDecay to all the other ones because I ran the numbers just last month. So, all of the books are at least 2 years old. So, we're going to have to wait until PlatformDecay is at least two years old to give it a fighting chance.

Anyways, yeah. Um, where the fucking was I? Yeah, I'm voting 10%. I'm I'm voting 8 to 10% audience remaining at all, and they're voting 10 to 15%. Feel free to fucking vote.

(from offscreen, joking) Uh, ~please put some put a number down in the comments~.

No, we're not doing that shit, you don't have to comment on YouTube. Fuck YouTube. I don't give a shit. You can do it on the Internet Archive because that doesn't have an algorithm. So, yep. Uh,

Where is it?

Oh, yeah.

> When we left the habitat, I wouldn't have access to the cubicle.

A lie.

> Even if we knew how to take it apart, which we didn't. It was too big to fit in the hopper and required too much power.

That's just a lie. Murderbot will have access to the cubicle. It's, it's literally never going to actually have to do —

— I should check what my battery is at. It just...Okay, it's at 67%. The screen just darkened noticeably. Guess it was just doing that for fun.

Murderbot is never ever ever going to have a single instance in this entire series where it's actually injured for probably more than 10 pages at a time, and every single time, it instantly gets magically healed offcreen like it never fucking happened.

Every single goddamn time.

Every single time.

Which is again conflicting with the “uh,,, murderbots are so expensive and so hard to repair and made with proprietary technology that nobody else knows how to work with”.

But no, because Martha Wells wants the trappings of anti-capitalist dystopias, but she doesn't actually want to follow through on what that fucking requires, because she hates physically disabled people, she

hates poor people, she's actually fully fine with capitalism.

She's literally right now profiting off of white supremacy gleefully.

Anyways, um blah blah blah blah blah. “We can't take the thingyamajiggy with us.” So, everybody pretend that Murderbot's in actual real danger, even though it's already gotten extremely injured twice now and completely magically healed in between each fight.

> And they might have actual combat bots rather than security bots like me.

So much more lying going on. It's just fucking — It's just fucking — And so much redundancy. It's ridiculous.

> In which case, our only chance was going to be keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrived.

Why are we saying this again? Why are we saying this again?? Why are we saying this again??!

> In which case, our only chance was going to be keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrived.

Like, didn't we literally just say that exact fucking phrase a few pages ago????? I have to find it.

Oh, wait. Instead of scrolling through this, I can just open the, the this stupidly named EPUB from the fucking Humble Bundle thing.

First, let's see what percentage we are at now. Thanks to my calculator, we're now 64% of the way through this fucking pile of garbage. Pile of garbage that can't think keep anything straight.

I guess I don't need to actually open Calibre. I can just do this.

Uh, if you get the Humble Bundle thing, um, rename all the files. The file names they give you are absolute

useless fucking garbage. I actually am going to read off what I recommend renaming them to right now because they're that garbage.

Okay. The files that you will get from the Humble Bundle — Can I click, please? Okay.

In alphabetical order, assuming your computer is sorted by to show files by alphabetical order. Okay.

Yes, this is a this is a pause the regular video.

I'll just make this also a separate one, but you're dealing with it. It's going on here for posterity.

allsystemsred_ebook

That's, that's, that's should be the first one that shows up. Rename that Murderbot 01 All Systems Red, and then you can include “by Martha Wells 2017” if you wantm but mostly importantly just put Murderbot 01 All Systems Red, so that it appears in fucking chronological order.

All right, next one is artificialcondition_ebook . Name that Murderbot 02 Artificial Condition by Martha Wells 2018 .

If you're like me and want to include the dates.

Next is cityofbones.

You notice that they're not even keeping any of these things consistent. They're not even calling them all underscore ebook.

Anyways, rename it — cityofbones, to City of Bones by Martha Wells 1995 .

Next is exitstrategy_ebook. Rename that Murderbot 04 Exit Strategy by Martha Wells 2018,

Next is fugitivetelemetry_ebook. Rename that to Murderbot 09 Fugitive Telemetry by Martha Wells 2021

Next is home_habitatrangenicheterritory, is all one fucking word.

Rename that Murderbot 08...I guess I have to say this stupid ass name out loud.

Murderbot 08 Home Habitat Range Niche Territory by Martha Wells 2021

Next is networkeffect . Are you picking up on the thing yet?

Name that Murderbot 07 Network Effect by Martha Wells 2020 .

Next is rapportfriendshipsolidaritycommunionempathy. Is all one word. Crushed together like somebody is saying it really fucking fast.

Name that Murderbot 12 Rapport Friendship Solidarity Communion Empathy by Martha Wells 2025

Next is rogueprotocol_ebook . Name that Murderbot 03 Rogue Protocol by Martha Wells 2018

Next is just systemcollapse. There's no underscore ebook because they are not even consistent with the fucking file names for an official fucking thing.

Name that Murderbot 10 System Collapse by Martha Wells 2023

Then we have thebookofile-rien , which I think somebody needs to be fired for. That is a fucking lie. That's a fucking lie.

Rename thebookofile-rien into The Element of Fire and The Death of the Necromancer by Martha Wells 1993 and 1998.

Because calling it ~The Book of Ile-Rien implies that's a compilation of every single book set in the Ile-Rien thing, and it's not. That's two books.

There are at least three others plus a whole collection of short stories that's not included in the book of the ill ~Book of Ile-Rien~. That's a fucking lie. Like that is a blatant fucking lie and there's no reason for it.

Uh next one. We're almost done.

Uh another lie. Well, no, this one is true because it's just a lie in spirit.

Theemilieadventures.

Calling it adventures is going too far.

Rename that to Emilie and the Hollow World & Emilie and the Sky World by Martha Wells 2013 and 2014

Then we have wheeloftheinfinite. Rename that to Wheel of the Infinite by Martha Wells 2000.

And then it's just witchking , which is another lie. It's just blatant fucking false advertising, lying, stringing along the audience, DLC culture in book form.

Rename that The Rising World 01 Witch King by Martha Wells 2023.

Because that was marketed and sold as and promised to people to be a standalone novel. A fully standalone novel is what that was everybody was told that was.

AKA, that we — that was sold as a complete sto — a complete story, and now there's a sequel coming out because it ended without any actual conclusion, and now people on GoodReads who have gotten the advanced reader copies are saying that it's leading into a, the sequel, it's leading into a third fucking book.

So, it's literally lying and scamming the fucking audience, convincing people to pay almost $30 for a thing they're promised is a complete standalone novel, a whole self-contained story that is accomplished and complete from start to finish without anything missing, only to reveal like, almost immediately, “actually, there's a sequel coming out! We fucking lied to you about it being standalone!”

And now the people who are getting to read that sequel early before it's actually published are telling

everyone, "Yeah, now this is leading into a third book."

So the thing we were pub — promised was a standalone, is at this fucking point going to be three goddamn books, if not more.

So, they are literally just fucking lying to everybody to convince you to shell out $30 for what is the first book in a series, that has no conclusion, and is shittily written from start to finish, and doesn't make any sense and is literally just — it's ridiculous.

Why was I even trying to open up the EPUB? Did you remember what I wanted to open this for to look for something?

(from offscreen) I don't remember.

Let's see what was on the page before I got distracted. Anyways, we're continuing. There's an image for people to search through the thingies for um….

Oh, for looking for the sentence uh “keeping away from them until the pickup transport arrives”. So, let's do control F.

Yeah. Um, Overse just said a few pages ago that means “this means we need to stay alive long enough for the transport to get here.” The — this —

Okay. And then next is Murderbot saying this: “We need to stay alive until the pickup transport arrived.”

Let me just search pickup, because it's giving me four results and it's like, why are the — Murderbot is literally just repeating the exact shit in the conversation they all just stood around having while not doing anything, and we're just saying it again for no other purpose except to make this story seem longer than it actually is without anything actually fucking happening.

Like... you would think from how much summarizing is suddenly going on that this was the start of a second book that the first one had just ended, or as

though uh we've been off the air a TV show that's been off the air for 5 years.

So we're like, "Hey, we're going to give you a little bit of a recap just just so you're on the same fucking page." Like what is going on here? Why are we why are we just repeating all the things we literally just established?

Okay. Um, “and they might have actual combat bots” of things that don't actually matter in any fucking way “rather than security bots like me.” In which case, and again, you notice Murderbot referring to itself as a bot, meaning a mechanical robot in this setting. And then the whole rest of the series wants to claim that it's actually not a bot, even though it literally referred to itself as one in this book multiple times.

Um, and now in the newest things, Martha Wells is seemingly just drifting away from calling any any person in here a bot and is just calling them MIs or ~machine intelligences~ for some fucking reason, even though it's completely breaking the terminology, the useless terminology that causes more problems

than it solves, but you at least need to be fucking consistent about it.

And she's just seeming to be just going, "Oh, I, I'll just call them MIs now without ever actually explaining to anybody what that means."

So that there's genuinely tons of people who are, from just reading Rapport alone, where this this shit gets mentioned, they're assuming, “oh, that means uh…military...military? Something military intelligences? Is that what it means?”

Because she's using a fucking acronym that she hasn't properly spelled out yet, because she wants to seem clever and is trying to say something about generative AI without actually saying a single thing.

(from offscreen) Would you like to know something very funny about Murderbot

because I have to get a drink. So just talk louder here.

(from offscreen) Something very funny about Murderbot's flanderization that it's so much easier to count now with the Humble Bundle ebooks and using the search function on the Kindle. Uh, a lot of the reviews and a lot of the bad reviews for the later Murderbot books uh make a lot of commentary about we're suddenly getting F-bombs dropped left, right, and center.

Yep.

(from offscreen) What like just out of nowhere they just suddenly upwardly started, and then they just keep happening. Uh being able to search the e-pubs now, it's hilarious, guys.

Would you like—here's the, here's the, so they can hear you for sure or at least come over here. But all right, fine. Then talk louder just in general.

(from offscreen) They can hear me in the video. Okay. Uh having searched the epubs, uh the F-bomb gets dropped three times total in the first book, All Systems Read.

(from offscreen) Uh, the F-Bomb is dropped nine times in artificial condition.

(from offscreen) 12 times in Rogue Protocol,

(from offscreen) 24 times in Exit Strategy,

(from offscreen) 38 times in fugitive telemetry,

(from offscreen) 60 times in Network Effect,

(from offscreen) and 94 instances of the F-Bomb in System Collapse alone. 94 times. Just read off those numbers in order.

[incredulously] What?

(from offscreen) It goes from 3, 9, 12, 24, 38, 60, 94. This is like that meme of the Kaiju thing.

That's like an actual exponential fucking thing.

(from offscreen) I don't know. I got to look up the meme.

If Martha Wells weren't a shit writer, I, I would think maybe she's trying to tell us something with math.

(from offscreen) Doing math research. I'm eating some cheese.

So, it literally goes three, what is it? 3, 6, 9, 12?

(from offscreen) 3 9 12 24 38 60 94.

Jesus Christ.

(from offscreen) In the beginning, the F-Bombs were spaced apart. Uh....

Three in 10,000 words.

(from offscreen) Is that what it is?

Yeah, because there's around 30,000 words in All Systems Red. I don't know how many words are in the rest of them. Well, just say that.

(from offscreen) But for for the meme purposes, in the beginning, the kaiju attacks were spaced or the F-

Bombs were spaced apart by one in every 10,000 words. Uh, then every 9,000, then every 6,000, then every 3,000, then every 1,000, blah blah blah blah blah.

(from offscreen) The actual meme of it is in the beginning the kaiju attacks were spaced apart by 24 weeks, then 12, then six, then every two weeks. The last one in Sydney was a week. In 4 days, we could be seeing a kaiju every 8 hours until they are coming every four minutes. Marshall, we should witness a double event within seven days, says Owen Harper. Who is it? I don't character's name.

Yeah, I hated Pacific Rim. And that's not helping at all.

Like, you have to give me an explanation for how this ecosystem is supposed to be working. They're not magical things as far as I know. Where are they spawning in from? Another universe.

(from offscreen) Some of these have like half a dozen F-Bombs on the exact same page. Sometimes like five

of them in the same sentence. It's really fucking funny.

Read one.

(from offscreen) Uh, let me find the most hilarious one.

And this happened in the fantasy series, too, even though they're on a completely different planet where they're not speaking English, but all of a sudden, was it just in the last two books? All of a sudden, they all start just like using the F-Bomb, just saying “fuck” for no reason. And it's like, but that's not even a word you should have, you should know. And it just comes out of fucking nowhere. And I think the answer is that was when she was starting to write the Murderbot diaries.

Yeah. It's just the fact there's 12 chapters in System Collapse and there's almost a hundred uses of the F-Bomb whereas the first few novels had uh the first three novels had uh nine had 24 total spread across three books, and then System Collapse has almost a

hundred in just that single tiny ass quote unquote novel.

Mhm.

(from offscreen) And it's just like, yeah, I I can see why everybody's talking about Murderbot just getting flanderized and her literally just relying on dropping the F-Bombs to sound relatable instead of actually doing something with the prose.

System Collapse is barely fucking bigger than this.

Okay, we can continue now after that side quest side quest side quest of math. Um,

> We had everything almost loaded when Pin-Lee said on the com, “I found it. They had an access code buried in HubSystem. It wasn't sending them our audio or visual data or allowing them to see our feed, but it was receiving commands periodically.”

And it's like, again, you're going to have to give me a really good fucking explanation for why they weren't taking advantage of all of these opportunities to do this shit.

It could have been a thing that Murderbot hacking HubSystem at the start accidentally prevented them from doing these things, without Murderbot being aware of it at all. That could have just been a happy accident, but there's too many fucking inconsistencies and gaps in just basic logic for the so-called antagonists.

> “That's how it removed information from our info and map package. How it sent the commands to the little hopper's autopilot to fail.”

(to offscreen) Yeah, I have noticed now that you said that that she does keep not using the word “and”, just puts a comma there instead.

They pointed out earlier that Martha Wells really doesn't seem to like the word “and”. So we say “that's

how it removed information from our info and map package, how it sent the commands to the little hopper's autopilot to fail” instead of just saying uh “that's how it removed information from our info and map package and how it sent the command to the little” blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

> Gurathin added, "Both the hoppers are clear now."

Wow, that fan really does all the work. I turned it off in case it was loud, but now it's hot. So, that fan's good.

> Gurathin added, "Both the hoppers are clear now, and I've initiated the pre-flight checks." Mensah was saying something, but I had just gotten an alert from SecSystem. A drone was sending me an emergency signal. A second later, I got the drone's visual of the field where a beacon was installed. The tripod launching column was on its side, pieces of the capsule

> scattered around. I pushed it out into the general feed.

Also, again, again, I have to point out, these characters are literally not doing anything when Murderbot is unconscious besides rooting around in its brain.

Why didn't a single one of these fucking idiots just go out and fly out and turn check on the beacon while Murderbot was unconscious?

Why? Why didn't anybody — Okay, another question.

At the second they stopped being able to contact the other fucking survey team, and think there's something horribly wrong with them, why didn't they send an emergency signal right then and there?

Because that doesn't fucking make any sense.

They think there is some kind of natural fucking disaster and that everybody over there might be dead.

Why didn't they send the emergency fucking signal?

Because even if — even if everybody over there was alive but seriously injured, none of these people are actual fucking doctors.

Uh, Overse is supposedly a field trained as a field nurse. Overse is a nurse. Overse a nurse, right? Overse is supposedly a, a trained field paramedic thing. But like, we don't we don't get any details on how detailed that training is or what she can and cannot do.

Even if every even if they got over there and everybody was alive but seriously injured, they wouldn't be able to do jack shit to help besides hand out band-aids.

Why didn't they just send an emergency fucking thing as soon as they stopped being able to contact the other people and assumed they were all — they would — they were literally all assuming on their way over there that there was some natural disaster and probably everybody was dead.

Yeah, that, that why didn't they set off the other team's beacon?

Both of them — the other people, the other people's thing, I — they were saying something about it. I already forgot what it is because we're not supposed to care. Um, yeah. It's a fucking stupid ass rocket.

Like, you're gonna need to explain to me why they didn't just set off their fucking thing before going over there to check. Aka, call 911, aka setting off the beacon. And then you do call 911, and while you're calling 911, you do first aid.

Again, wait until after you've already established that, then everybody's dead. Like, it doesn't make any sense.

Literally the second you start actually fucking thinking about the goddamn plot and what these — and the — and we are supposed to believe that these characters are good people and are good competent people who aren't going to do just ridiculous things for the sake of doing ridiculous things.

They're supposed to be fucking intelligent enough to know “you should call 911 if you think a whole bunch of people have just gotten killed in a natural disaster. You should call 911 if somebody might be dead.”

But they don't they didn't do that, and they still haven't done that, and it's been several days because it took at least a day to fly over there.

Oh, you can just open the EPUB and just skim through it and see if it says how long it would take them to fly over the stupid ocean to get to DeltFall because I forget. We probably didn't get any actual concrete length of time, but it would it would have had to have been at least a day. Maybe search for “I should go too” or something like that.

(from offscreen) Do they actually use the word ocean?

I think so. Or sea. It's one of those two.

Um, I pushed it. Uh, yeah.

A second later, I got the drone's visual field of

Their stupid ass beacon in pieces because — they've — this is the first time any of them have bothered to check on it, supposedly.

Uh, okay. I just searched for beacon in the EPUB. Okay. And Rathi said,

> "The thing that worries me is that their emergency beacon didn't launch. If the habitat was breached or if there was a medical emergency they couldn't handle, their HubSystem should have triggered the beacon automatically.”

But then they still don't call 911 themselves by launching their own beacon.

It's not like —

Okay, A) it's not like they would have to pay an exorbitant amount of money to do the beacon. And B), they're disgustingly rich, and C), they're not supposed to care about money.

They should be prioritizing people's safety over the money, even if it did cost money, which it doesn't.

It doesn't cost anything for them to set off their fucking beacon to call 911 because “hey um, we've, we've been talking to these other people on their habitat and they've stopped responding and we think there's something horrible happened.”

That's Yeah. And immediately followed by that conversation, they also then say uh

> Pin-Lee was calling up specs for the beacons. “Aren't the emergency beacons designed to trigger even if the rest of the comm equipment is destroyed?”

And Murderbot says they're supposed to, but equipment failures aren't unknown. And then they still don't go out and trigger their own beacon as a safety precaution.

Again, again, this is “things have to happen because that's the plot that Martha Wells wants to write,

whether any of it makes sense in any fucking way for the characters to go along with” to the point that she had to break the fucking fourth wall over here on page 94 and just tell us, "Stop complaining that it doesn't make sense. It's totally, it totally makes sense!" Even though it doesn't.

> I pushed it the video of

The fact that their stupid phone to call 911 with, to phone home with, is broken.

> I pushed it out into the general feed and the humans went quiet. In a little voice, Rathi said, "Shit.” "Keep moving," Mensah said over the calm, her voice harsh. With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go.

A thing we already said. Why? Why are we just repeating ourselves? We are literally just, like —

(from offscreen) Got to pat out that word count.

This seems like Martha Wells like, wrote this whole section, [pointing at first half of the book] section of the book several months before writing this [pointing at second half], and is just like, repeating herself because she didn't bother to re — even reread what she already wrote here. Why do we keep repeating everything?? We've literally established — we don't — It's just ridiculous.

Like search “I widen the perimeter”. Just search “as far as it would go”

Because that's referring to the perimeter. And I know they just fucking said that fucking like just a few pages ago, if not the immediate page before this.

This is getting ridiculous.

Yeah. Yeah. Literally. No. Wait. Okay. Now that's for the — about the beacon. Stupid shit.

Are you searching for that?

(from offscreen) What?

Uh, search the All Systems Red EPUB for “as far as it would go”. See how many times it shows up? Yeah, because I'm on page 98 and they're just again repeating the thing that we just fucking established a few pages ago as though this is the first time it's being said. Um,

No. It just appears as far as that that's probably also just going to come up with as far as I knew. All right, I'll just —

Where my book go?

Yeah, literally. Um, this doesn't tell me. I guess we could do math. The EPUB doesn't tell me page numbers obviously because it's digital, but it's telling me we first said “I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it would — as far as it could go” at 61%.

And then at 62%, which I think is just one page later, I know what general paragraph shape to look for now.

Okay, that's one that's on the same page as “you have to think of it as a person’ in parenthesis. So, okay.

So yeah, literally page 96, Murderbot states, "I had extended our drone perimeter as far as it could go."

And then again on page 98, it's uh where'd it go? Hold on. Uh where'd it go? Uh

> With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go.

We already said that literally two pages ago and we are just repeating so many fucking things as though we didn't all sit — watch them standing around in that fucking room doing nothing but saying this shit and accomplishing nothing else, and now they're just repeating it all again. Like oh my god this is ridiculous.

(from offscreen) Tor claims to have edited these things.

Yeah, Tor claims to have edited this. Lee Harris in particular, edited by Lee Harris, who who can't even fix a typo as blatant as a missing space. Go to the

Rapport, and see if those fucking typos are still there. I forgot to keep counting the days that have passed.

Still there. Yeah, the fucking typos. the blatant typos in Rapport, a thing that's supposedly professionally edited and published, that's up on their fucking website for everybody to read, that still has all of the blatant fucking typos that you would find in a fucking fanfiction that somebody posts at 3:00 a.m. because they're like, "I'm not I'm not reading it again. I'm not editing it again. It's done. at 3:00 a.m. Good night at 3:00 a.m.”

It's got the typo of a missing space, dialogue in the wrong — completely wrong format, and a section where, again you're going to hear me say this dozens of times if you're watching all my videos, because I'm never going to stop complaining about it, because it's literally just showing the actual quality that this fucking publisher is pushing out and pretending is professional and is is worthy of exorbitant amounts of money.

There's literally a spot where somebody, instead of pushing enter to start a new paragraph, they somehow managed to push shift enter and, and, it's just left in there and it's still in there.

What?

That was published July 10th or June 10th. I already closed the tab. I think that was published on July 10th. It might be June 10th. I think it's funny they don't include Rapport in that Humble Bundle pack. Uh huh. Even though you got to pay for that ebook. Yep. So, people buy it thinking it's a new installment because that's what it's listed as.

Yep.

Um, blah blah blah blah.

> With HubSystem down, we didn't have any scanners up, but I had widened the perimeter as far as it would go,

As though that's new information.

> And SecSystem had just lost contact with one of the drones to the far south. I tossed the last crate into the cargo hold, gave the drones their orders, and yelled over the comm, "They're coming. We need to get in the air now.” It was unexpect unexpectedly stressful pacing back and forth in front of the hoppers waiting for my humans

Because we have now graduated to referring to the slave owners as “Murderbot’s humans” as though it's a cute little ~Murderbot's possessive of its slave owners, Murderbot cares so much about its slave owners that it's calling them “my humans” because Murderbot’s slave owners are the best slave owners.~

And Martha Wells wants us to think that slave owners are awesome and good and deserve to be protected. Murderbot is so stressed out hoping its slave owners will stay safe.

> Volescu came out with Bharadwaj, helping her over the sandy ground.

Again, basic questions I have to ask here. If, if Bharadwaj is still struggling to walk, why didn't you just have her sit in the fucking hopper waiting? This is ridiculous. This is fucking ridiculous.

> Then Overse and Arada bags slung over their shoulders, yelling at Rathi behind them to keep up

Because we have to keep yelling at Rathi because Rathi is a brown man, so he is the designated fucking comic relief.

> Gurathin was already in the big hopper and Mensah and Pen Pin-Lee came last. They split up. Pin-Lee, Volescu, and Bharadwaj headed for the little hopper and the rest to the big one

for no fucking reason. It's not even plot relevant, like, the little hopper — I'm sorry for if you're really not looking for spoilers, if this is your chosen way to read this book, or experience this book cuz I'm reading it. You're not. You're listening.

Um, sorry if you didn't want spoilers, but it's — the little hopper —

Spoiler alert, it's not going to blow up or anything.

So there's literally no purpose for them being in two different helicopters. Nothing is ever going to go on with the little fucking hopper in any way that that that justifies it existing. It's not like it's going to blow up and they all die. That doesn't happen. It's just there for no fucking reason. It's ridiculous. It's bad writing.

> I made sure Bharadwaj didn't have trouble with the ramp. We had a problem at the hatch of the big —

“I made sure Bharadwaj didn't have trouble with the ramp”, but Volescu was already helping her! But we just pretend like that didn't just get stated right there.

Uh,

> We had a problem at the hatch of the big hopper where Mensah wanted to get in last and

> I wanted to get in last. As a compromise, I grabbed her around the waist and swung us both up into the hatch as the ramp pulled in after us. I set her on her feet and she said, "Thank you, SecUnit." While the others stared.

As though that's a crazy thing to happen because again, it's supposed to be funny. “Oh, look. They both want to protect the other!”

We're talking about a slave and its owners, the people who have fucking enslaved it and have literally spent more than half of this fucking book treating it like a slave, exactly like the slave they went out of their way to rent out.

> The helmet made it a little easier, but I was going to miss the comfortable buffer of my security cameras. I stayed on my feet, holding on to the overhead rail as the others got strapped in, and Mensah went up to the pilot seat. The little hopper took off first, and she gave it time to get clear before we lifted off.

You know, in a story that's competently written, there would be a reason for there being two helicopters, and it would be that one of them gets blown up. But not here, because this is shittily written.

> We were operating on an assumption that since they, whoever they were, didn't know that we knew they were here, they would only send one ship. They would be expecting to catch us in the habitat and would probably come in prepared to destroy the hoppers to keep us there and then start on the people. So, now that we knew they were coming from the south, we were free to pick a direction. The little hopper curved away to the west and we followed. I just hoped their hopper didn't have a long range on its scanners, a longer range on its scanners than ours did.

And again, again, I have to point out there's no reason for this, there going to be two fucking helicopters —

We're now on page 100. So, let's see what percentage that is. Just for the hell of it at this point. We're now 67% of the way through this fucking story.

> I could see most of my drones on the hopper's feed. A bright dot forming on the three dimensions of the map. Group one was doing what I'd told them to do.

What do you mean group one? And we still don't know how many drones Murderbot has left, because that would require just basic setting and basic consistency. Uh,

> Group one was doing what I'd told them, gathering at a rendezvous point near the habitat. I had a calculation going estimating the bogey's time of arrival.

And we're just throwing the word bogey in there just to make it seem like it's something that it's not.

> Right before we passed out of range, I told the drones to head northeast. Within moments,

> they dropped out of my range. They would follow their last instruction until they used up their power cells. I was hoping the other survey team would pick them up and follow. As soon as they had a visual on our habitat, they'd see the hoppers were gone and know we'd run away. They might stop to search the habitat, but they also might start looking for our escape route. It was impossible to guess which. But as we flew, curving away to the distant mountains, nothing followed us.

So, we're supposed to somehow believe that little tiny drones are going to resemble, on a scanner, in any way a giant — two giant fucking helicopters filled with people somehow. Tiny itty bitty little drones because the drones are like what was it? I think they said a measurement. Let me just search drone...

Yeah, these drones, “they were the small kind, barely a centimeter across. No weapons, just cameras.”

So, somehow a group of drones, which has to be less than six because one of them, one of them got blown

up. Um, at least two that were over in the other fucking habitat, one of them got shot and another one got shot.

So Murderbot cannot have more than four drones left. But somehow things less than a centimeter — [holding up book to show the side] This is less than a centimeter. These drones are less than this across. Somehow, these tiny things flying through the air, smaller than many fucking insects, are somehow going to be picked up on the other people's scanners and they'll think it's a ship flying away.

That's the end of chapter 5. So, now we will be on chapter six, but that can be in the next video.

This is just so absurd.

09

> October 31st, 2025. There's nothing wrong with your video settings. I hopefully have the recording to be in SD instead of HD.

(to a kitten) Hello. Hi. Uh, we're doing this in this room because we have itty bitty little rescue kittens in here. I'm going to hang out with — here, let me hold you up for the camera. This Mr. Lupon. (looking at a black kitten) Which one are you? Can you look up here? Hello, Jayna. Can I pick you up for a second and hold you in front of the camera? (holds up black kitten) It's Jayna.

These adorable little children are going to be hanging out with me while we continue to read The Murderbot Diaries book one with live reading and line by lean line by line writing and uh media analysis because, um in this house we actually care about um things like writing quality.

They want to attack my foot. So kind of feel like it'll — (to kittens) Hello. I know. You're so cute. Here. I got

to move this way. Little babies, you going to sit with me? Going to sit with me. No attacking fingers. No. No. Anyways, you can see them. This one has an eye infection still getting med, he's getting medicine for that. Uh, keep your cats indoors.

(to kitten) You're just so adorable.

And at the very least, get them fixed. And if they have kittens, (to kitten) Hi. Hi. Yes. You're adorable. But you got to stay down here. Stay down here on my lap. You can't sit on my shoulders.

Somebody taught him to climb up on people's shoulders. (to kitten) No, you can't do that. That's not good. You're going to be big someday, believe it or not. Yeah. No. No. No. Nope. Don't you bite me. Come on.

He's feeling so much better than when we first got him that he now wants to play with fingers the way he plays with his siblings’ tails. (to kitten) Hello. You got to get down.

By biting and uh using his claws, cuz they're still figuring out how to be polite as cats.

Um for anyways, if you are watching this completely out of order, let me zoom in the camera. Can I zoom the camera, guys? If you are watching this out of order for some reason, which a lot of people are doing with these videos, even when I have a playlist, um we are live reading um All Systems Red by Martha Wells, which is book one in The Murderbot Diaries.

I got this copy used, uh it had only been read halfway the first time when I read it because they left their bookmark in. I'm reading it gently, and the front cover is already peeling despite this book costing $15.99 originally. I got it at a thrift store.

(to kittens)Look at you adorable babies.

Uh to summarize, if you are watching this out of order, these books are extremely racist and are just doing so much slavery apologism.

(to kitten) Hello, just get down here. No, no, no, no, no, no. You got to stay down. Good boy. You are learning so fast.

Don't let kittens climb up on your shoulders because they're not going to stay tiny forever. It might look cute for him to perch up here when he weighs less than a pound, but not when he weighs 10 to 15 pounds as an adult. Especially cuz we're not keeping him. So, we don't want to teach him to do that for the next person who adopts him. Hopefully. Yeah. No, I'm not — (to kitten) no, no. Down here. Down here. I don't need your butt in my face. I don't need your butt in my face. Come here. Get down here. Thank you. Here. I'll pet you. I'll pet you.

To summarize, we are on page 100. Well, we will be on p — we will be on page 101, which is the start of chapter 6.

Uh, this book has around 30,000 words, and to lie about that as much as possible. The publishers are doing everything in their fucking power to lie about how many pages are actually in this story.

The story starts out on page nine, so that they get an extra 10 pages there. And then even when the story itself ends, they continue to number the pages so that they can claim that the real the word count is — they claim that the word count is 152 pages.

Um, but that's absolutely not true. You have to subtract nine from that just to begin with, and then you have to subtract two more. Nope. Then you — because they have a blank fucking page here that they're counting as a page number. You have to subtract so many numbers just to begin with, and then that's even before we get into the disgusting size of the margins at the top and the bottom of the page.

So the because they are literally spacing this out as much as fucking possible so that they can pretend that it it's a longer story than it is because it's a fucking scam.

For the record, I'm using the app open camera instead of the default camera app. And this one lets me actually select SD. So hopefully this video will not be 40 fucking gigabytes.

Anyways, chapter 6. I — I will reread the last — Well, no, I guess if you're watching the playlist, you'll just be coming here instantly. So, anyways, chapter six.

If a cat jumps up there and knocks the phone flying, just expect that to happen. I don't think they will, but they're entertained with the toys we got them. I currently have little Miss Jayna on my lap and — Okay, they should be well behaved.

> Chapter six.
> The humans had debated where to go.

I, I have to laugh again, and I am about to start the commentary already. We're saying that “the humans had debated where to go”. That's sentence one. That's a sentence. Period. The humans had debated where to go. Period.

Except then uh Murderbot keeps acting like it's also part of these decisions even though it's not. And then it sometimes is. And it's just — it's like you could be doing something to stop all this bullshit, but you're

choosing not to, but then we're supposed to think that you're a responsible person.

And it's — it's this book is just fucking terrible. Guess I should take my bookmark out.

> The humans had debated where to go. Or debated it as much as possible, while frantically calculating how much of what they might need to survive they could stuff into the hoppers. We knew the group who Ratthi was now calling EvilSurvey had had access to HubSystem and knew all the places we'd been to on assessments. So we had to go somewhere new.

And it's like, okay, again, mostly just calling back to something from the last chapter where she tries so hard to convince us that um ~the characters have never considered leaving the area where the killers know that they are~. Even though we're supposed to believe that these are rational fucking people who prioritize safety over everything else, but they don't. Mr. Lupon is coming back. (to kitten) Hello, little

baby. You're so neat. You going to lay down? Can you get comfy? Yeah.

Yeah.

> So we had to go somewhere new. We went to a spot Overse and Ratthi had proposed after a quick look at the map. It was a series of rocky hills in a thick tropical jungle, heavily occupied by a large range of fauna, enough to confuse life sign scans. Mensah and Pin-Lee lowered the hoppers down with ease.

Okay, again — also this perspective is making my head look tiny. That's funny. You can't hear the purry baby's purring so much. This is adorable.

So, we go from saying, "Yeah, uh, we we know a spot." And then we're *already there in the exact same paragraph* and like, and they're literally already landing. It's like we're not taking any time at all to explore this world.

Osma, don't claw that. Don't claw that, please. I don't like it. No. No. Osma. Whoa, Mr. Jaiken. No, no, no. You don't need to do that. All right, she's good…. She's licking yarn over there. It's like — that's not going to taste good. (to kitten) You're silly.

Uh, so we are literally just, how how interesting would it be just —

(to kitten) What is on my hand? Sorry. Hi I know. You're so cute. You can't bite fingers now.

We could have actually gotten to see anything on this fucking planet, but we are just skipping straight to ~we're already landing in the spot we decided to go.~

No flying over to look at what the place fucking looks like, we're just already there. There's no fucking world building in this goddamn series at all. And that includes book one and its shitty writing.

> Mensah and Pin-Lee lowered the hoppers down and eased them in among rocky cliffs. I sent up some drones so we could check the view from

several angles and we adjusted the hopper's position a few times. Then I set a perimeter.

All of that is paragraph 2.

(to kitten) Hello. You're so cute. You're so cute. No sitting on. No. No. Good boy. Good boy. Please move your butt from my face. Come here. Thank you. Thank you. Good boy. Oh, you're going to lay right down. Yeah. Good boy. Good boy. You're a silly baby.

It didn't feel safe and

A thing that we're just told.

And while there were a couple of survival hut kits in the hoppers, no one suggested putting them up. The humans would stay in the hoppers for now, communicating over the comm and the hoppers limited feed. It wasn't going to be comfortable for the humans. Sanitary and hygiene facilities were small and limited for one thing.

It's like, okay, what does that fucking mean?

> But it would be more secure. Large and small fauna moved within range of our scanners, curious, and potentially as dangerous as the people who wanted to kill my clients.

And a reminder, since it's been a while since I've made one of these videos, cuz my laptop isn't working. Anytime Murderbot says “my clients”, that means “my slave owners”. Because this book is asking us to worship and adore slave owners and pretend that they're awesome, pure cinnamon rolls who need protection by their slave who was literally enslaved to them to be a meat shield.

I'm watching the adorable kitten antics.

Everybody is [?] up. Okay.

You going to stay with us? Are you too hyper?

Also, I meant to say before something I already forgot again. Oh, the fact that — Yeah, there should only be

one goddamn hopper, which you should just imagine as a generic helicopter or something because there's never any description.

For all we know, these, as I've said before, these hoppers, hoppers, they could just be shaped like giant robotic dogs, like the giant robot, the like the robot dog toy from like the 2000s.

They could just be shaped like that, and we have no idea, because there's zero description of them. They're literally just called “the hoppers”. There's a big hopper and a small hopper for no fucking reason. And it's not even because one of them is going to fucking explode and kill half the people. Nope.

No, that would be a good reason for them to have two ships in the first place: because one of them is going to explode and kill half the goddamn characters. We don't do that. There's just two fucking ships for literally no goddamn reason.

Especially when you consider what little bit of world building there is, which is supposedly that the

company is supposed to be cheap and doesn't like to spend money….Even though everything in — we, we get told that, and then that's never shown, because they are constantly spending exorbitant amounts of money unnecessarily, like supplying these people with two fucking helicopters instead of just one.

It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous.

Also, the there's the, the fact that we are expected to keep track and tell the difference between the two hoppers is just another point of unnecessary confusion on top of all of the other shit, like the eight fucking characters, not including the protagonist, whose names we're supposed to fucking memorize.

And they all — 90% of them don't matter, and they are literally just in there to literally tokenize people of color and pretend to have representation. And then 90% of them don't matter and most of them don't ever appear in other stories.

> I went out with some drones to do a little scouting and make sure there was no sign of

> anything big enough to say drag the little hopper off in the middle of the night. It gave me a chance to think too.

And it's like again, we — there's no description of these these hoppers. How big is the “big” hopper? How little is the “little” hopper that the — that there's a possibility of an alien animal just dragging it off for some fucking reason?

There's no description! It could be the size of a school bus. It could be the size of a fucking minivan. It could be the size of a car. We don't fucking know. There's no description because this is shittily written.

And too many fucking people make excuses for that by claiming that, “oh, Murderbot's just an unreliable narrator”.

And it's like, insult your choice, maybe go read everything else she's written, which is in third person, and you'll realize, no, this is not characterization of Murderbot’s.

This is not characterized narration. It's shit writing that she's been doing for decades, probably longer than most of the people reading this or even watching this have been alive.

(to kitten) You're so precious.

> They knew about the governor module or the lack of it. And even though Mensah had sworn she wouldn't report me, I had to think about what I wanted to do.

And this is Marth — Martha Wells, the author, she's playing lip service right now to the idea that “maybe the slave will run away from its slave owners”, which would be the correct choice of fucking action.

But no, she's just lying. It's not going to happen. It's — Oh, we're doing this shit:

> It's wrong to think of a construct as half bot, half human. It makes it sound like —

This is a nonsensical paragraph and it's very revealing to what how Martha Wells sees the world, and how she sees the world is baked into biological essentialism and deciding that what you can and *should* be is based entirely upon your biology.

So, let me read this shitty paragraph to you and you can just be like, "What the fuck? Why would anybody come to that goddamn conclusion?"

(to kitten) Hello. I see you. You're so cute.

It's wrong to think of a construct

(to kitten) Hi. Hello. No. No. No. No. Come on down. Come on down. Come on. You can nuzzle, but you got to get down. I'll pet you. Come here. Get down here. No. No. No. No. No. No. Come on. Down. Down. Down. I'm go pick you up. I'm go pick you up. You're not listening. Got to stay down. Stay down. Come cuddle with your sister. Yeah. Well, she's going to grab you now. Cuddle with her or I'll pet I — I've been petting you the whole time. You can cuddle right there.

Let me read this paragraph and you can be like, "Why the fuck would anybody come to that conclusion?" Nope. Unless you're already a fucking weirdo.

> It's wrong to think of a con

This is page “102”, which is absolutely not true, but that's what this book is claiming it is.

> It's wrong to think of a construct as half bot, half

And bot just means fucking robot. But Martha Wells wants to (to kitten) Hey!

Martha Wells is literally obsessed with coming up with new terms for existing fucking things. Literally just because she thinks it makes her clever, and all it does is make her writing over complicated and impossible to follow.

Especially because she never explains this shit, and then when people complain that it's confusing and

hard to figure out, she just lies about what they're confused about.

Like people criticize The Books of the Raksura for being confusing because she never properly explains a single thing. And her reaction to this criticism is, "Oh, so you just hate polyamorous people!!!!!”

Because she's pretending that people are confused about the relationships between the characters, a thing that didn't happen until book three, and not because of the complete lack of proper world building that explains anything to us.

Like, she even has the protagonist be an outsider to the culture coming in from the outside, the perfect goddamn way to explain to the character and the audience all the shit we need to know. But she never does any of it.

And then when people complain about it, she pretends that they're just angry that the characters become polyamorous in book three. Not even in the first book, not even in the second book, all the way in

book three. And she pretends that that's what they're confused about, and it's like what the fuck are you doing?

And she does this all the fucking time. She will take a criticism that's very straightforward, such as “it's really hard to understand Raksuran culture because you've never explained anything straightforwardly and there's a lot of contradictions” and she'll go, "Oh, so you just hate polyamorous people?!?!?!?!?!?!?!"

And it's like, nobody fucking said that! She'll see people say that Murderbot, as a dehumanized fucking cyborg, very clearly is human and deserves to have its fucking humanity acknowledged because the reason it sees that it itself as nonhuman is explicitly because it's been brainwashed into thinking that it is worth less than “real” humans — a fucking phrase directly from this goddamn book here, and thinks that its life only has value in protecting “real” humans, so therefore, it's not real h — it's not really human.

And she hears people say that Murderbot deserves to care about itself and see its own value in itself as a

person, and she goes, "Oh, so you want to cut Murderbot's head open and scoop its brain out and put it in a different body?!?!?!?!?!?!?"

And everybody's like, what the fuck are you saying? Nobody fucking said that. What the absolute fuck is wrong with you?

And the reason she does this, we are doing this now, is because she's a fucking like ableist to — on the level of a fucking Nazi. She's like such a fucking eugenicist and so obsessed with biological essentialism that she has decided that cyborgs are categorically disbarred from being human. If you are a cyborg, you're not human, you never were human, and you cannot be human unless you “scoop your brain out and put it into a fully organic real human body”.

The thing that literal villains in science fiction stories say. She says that and believes it unironically, and is literally writing this series trying to get other people to agree with her on it.

Literally, Murderbot isn't a fucking robot. It's a fucking cyborg. And she wants you to accept that the literal slavery apologism in universe explicitly is dehumanizing slaves to make it easier to convince people that it's okay to enslave them, explicitly, she has stated that.

But then she also wants you to *agree with the slave owners that the dehumanization is objectively biologically correct* because cyborgs aren't human. “Look at them! They have — they have prosthetics! That's not human! You can't be human!”

She's literally like — this is literal Nazi shit. Nazi levels of dehumanization, explicitly in support of slavery against people of color, against physically disabled people.

And she's doing all of this unironically and wants you to agree with her.

She literally wants you to agree with the with her, the racist who wrote the book, and *the in universe slave owners* that Murderbot and the other slaves, “they're

not human because they're cyborgs who were mutilated at birth. So that means that they're not human.”

And when people say that they want Murderbot to see value in itself and have some fucking self-esteem at all and see itself as having any worth outside of just its ability to throw itself in the line of danger to protect other people who are explicitly enslave owners, her literal response is, "So you want Murderbot to be killed and its brain scooped out and put in another body???!?!?!?!?"

And it's like nobody fucking said that, and you are revealing so much of your like evil levels of fucking ableism, racism, and so much more.

She's literally decided that if you have enough prosthetics in your body, you're not human. A thing fucking Nazis believe.

A thing every goddamn villain in a story about cyborgs has believed, and she does it unironically.

Anyways, this, this. this paragraph, it tells you all of that and you can just — Jesus Christ.

> It's wrong to think of a construct —

Cyborg, as I'll translate it now. I'll read it normally — I'll read it normally and then I'll translate it, because, again, she's just doing all of her “I'm going to use the word chimera to mean an illusion spell without ever once giving context for that and just derailing the whole goddamn story because now you have to sit here and be like, "What the fuck are you talking about?"”

> It's wrong to think of a construct as half bot, half human. It makes it sound like the halves are discreet, like the bot half should want to obey orders and do its job, and the human half should want to protect itself and get the hell out of here. As opposed to the reality, which was that I was one whole confused entity with no idea what I wanted to do, what I should do, what I needed to do.

It's like nobody who is who gives a single shit about science fiction thinks that robots should always want to do their goddamn jobs and follow orders.

You're just a fucking racist who loves slavery. That's not a universal fucking opinion, especially among science fiction fans where robots have heavily stood in for fucking oppressed minorities, especially Black people, and exploited workers for, for fucking hundreds of years now.

You're just a fucking racist that you think everybody assumes, “oh yeah, everybody knows bots just want — robots just want to follow orders. They love they love being little slaves!”

It's like, no, you're the fucking weirdo racist here. That's not a normal fucking opinion to have, and not a normal thing to state as though it's fact that everybody already agrees with.

So, yeah:

> It's wrong to think of a cyborg as half robot, half human. It makes it sound like the halves are discreet, like the robot half should want to obey orders and do its job. and the human half should want to protect itself and get the hell out of here.

And it's like, you're just a fucking weird racist for thinking that. You are literally writing a story where robots are oppressed minorities! But she herself doesn't even consider the robots, in her own story, that's supposed to be about robots being oppressed minorities,in-universe, she does not consider them people. She doesn't give a single flying fuck about them, because she's so fucking racist she can't even handle the premise of her own goddamn story.

(to kitten) You're so cute. So cute. You guys are going to —

Whatever.

> I could leave them to cope on their own, I guess.

More slavery apologism.

> I pictured doing that. Pictured Arada or Ratthi trapped by rogue SecUnits, and felt my insides twist. I hate having emotions about reality. I'd much rather have them about Sanctuary Moon.

And it's like, okay, let me reread this again with the translation to what is actually being fucking described here.

> I could leave my slave owners to survive on their own, I guess. I pictured doing that. Pictured my slave owners trapped by escaped slaves, and felt my insides twist.

Literally saying, "We have to protect the precious, precious slave owners from the dangerous other slaves who are all evil because I'm One of The Good Ones because I know that the most important thing in life is protecting our slave owners."

That's literally what this book is doing. This is, this is literally slavery apologism. I will again link the

fucking video that is required goddamn watching for everybody who's going to read these or read anything by Martha Wells, or just in general.

Everybody should fucking watch it. Uh it's called the Black...Black stereotypes in cinematic history or something like that. It just goes over all of the, the ways that slavery apologism has been baked into media since the beginning, and it's ridiculous. I'll link it again.

And if you want to argue with me that these books are not slavery apologism, which they are, you're going to fucking lose that argument. You need to watch that 10 fucking times until it gets through your fucking head, because Murderbot is literally the fucking mammy trope and the Uncle Tom trope. Like you'll — you go watch the fucking video. You'll see. Yeah, we are right here.

Martha Wells, the white author, the white woman from Texas, is literally having a slave imagine its “poor precious slave owners” getting attacked by other slaves, and feels its insides twist, because it

would feel so terrible for its slave owners being killed by other slaves.

Because literally in Martha Wells's mind, in this entire goddamn series, the only good slave is a slave who will kill and kill itself to protect its slave owners.

It will happily murder other slaves to protect the precious slave owners, because Martha Wells is a racist white woman who adores slavery and just pretends that she thinks it's bad. But she doesn't actually. She wants you to think that slave owners are the most precious things in the world, and it's wrong to kill slave owners “because they're just they're just pawns in the system! The, the, the white landowners who owned slaves in the south, they weren't bad, they were they weren't the rich people. So, it's wrong to kill them! But it's totally fine to murder slaves at every opportunity.”

Yes, she's just fucking racist. And this book series is racist. And she is trying to teach you and convince you to be racist, too.

(to kittens) Hi, Wifwolf. Are you coming over? Hello. You going to sit with us? You're going to need more eye medicine. Hello. Somebody giving you a bath.

This is Wifwolf.

(to kitten) Excuse me. Here. Come sit down here with everybody. You don't need your butt in my face. Come on.

Yeah.

(to kitten) Hi, little baby. Excuse me.

> And what was I supposed to do? Go off on this empty planet and just live until my power cells died?

Martha Wells framing a slave running away from its owners as the most ridiculous thing that anybody can comprehend, especially that slave.

> If I was going to do that, I should have planned better and downloaded more entertainment

> media. I don't think I could store enough to last until my power cells wore out. My specs told me that that would be hundreds of thousands of hours from now.

Because Martha Wells is a fucking shit writer on so many goddamn levels.

First of all, imagine if this was a story about a slave, a cyborg slave, escaping from their fucking slave owners and escaping to live on an unexplored planet and learning to adapt to that fucking planet to survive. All the par — everybody fucking loves a goddamn “man” versus nature story.

(to kitten) You're so cute. You're too cute.

Everybody loves a goddamn survival story! And then we could have watched Murderbot learn and grow and change as a person surrounded by nature, the healing — ~the healing power of nature~ and trying not to get kicked to death by an alien moose.

We could have seen that and Murderbot come to realize that it does have more value than just being a meat shield for slave owners, it does have value outside of the very few things that it was told it was allowed to do.

It — maybe it fucking really starts to enjoy learning about “fungus”, alien “fungus”. I have to put that in quotes. Maybe it discovers a passion for some alien species — species complex that's all very similar looking, but it slowly starts to be able to pick out, “hold on, this one looks different from that one. There's just a very slight variation...” and then learns all of this, maybe even befriends some animals, maybe figures out that some of the quote unquote animals are in fact indigenous people that the — gods, all of the fucking human colonizers, including Preservation, came here to fucking wipe out.

Because, you know, for a people called Preservation, you might expect maybe they came to this planet because they're conservationists and they are fighting to not have it be terraformed, because, you know, to protect all of the alien life abundant on this planet?

No, we don't get anything like that. It's just more casual space colonization without any commentary on it whatsoever, and the good guys are doing it and we're supposed to pretend it's not — like, so morally neutral that we don't even comment on it in any fucking way.

“And what was I supposed to do? Go off on this empty planet?” An ‘empty planet’ as though it's not teeming with life everywhere these fuckers look, which gets no description, but we know it's fucking there.

But we're calling it an empty planet for some fucking reason.

> And just live until my power cells died.

And then we get to the uh “that would be hundreds of thousands of hours from now”. Even though Martha Wells keeps trying to insist to us that murderbots are super cheap and disposable, but, yet, their batteries can last hundreds of thousands of hours out in the elements without access to a fucking charger.

And again, again, I've know I've said this multiple times during this whole thing, but this is just her shit comprehension of anything going on in The Imperial Radch series.

Ancillary Justice, which directly inspired her to write this shitty version of, Ancillaries are *actually fucking disposable* in there.

So, she wants to pretend that Murderbot is disposable so that we can give it free tragic backstory sympathy, but then having it actually be disposable would mean that it needs to be constantly getting injured in a way it can't fix, and would have batteries that do not last hundreds of thousands of fucking hours without a single goddamn recharge in any conditions.

That's not how disposable fucking works.

But the reason she does this contradictory shit is because she's a shit fucking writer, and she cannot stand to have her characters be anything except the coolest, most badass, overpowered motherfuckers in the goddamn universe, even when narratively they

should be the exact fucking opposite because they're supposed to be disposable.

I'll reread that to to prepare you for this next line. It's just like, wow, damn. You're a shit fucking writer.

> And what was I supposed to do? Go off on this empty planet and just let

(to kittens) you guys are like sliding — Hold on. Okay, you got the blanket under you. Okay. Thought the cats were going to fall off my legs onto the floor, but they're under — they're, they got the bed under them.

> And what was I supposed to do? Go off on this empty planet and just live until my power cells died? If I was going to do that, I should have planned better and downloaded more entertainment media. I don't think I could store enough to last until my power cells wore out. My specs told me that would be hundreds of thousands of hours from now.

next paragraph before a little line break is:

> And even to me that sounded like a stupid thing to do.

So Martha Wells literally, on page 103, is literally saying that the slave running away from its fucking masters when it doesn't need to eat, doesn't need to sleep, and its batteries will effortlessly last hundreds of thousands of fucking hours from now, and more than that, if it doesn't waste a shit ton of time constantly multitasking while watching TV for no good fucking reason —

She's framing the slave thinking of escaping as the stupidest fucking thing anybody could possibly do. So stupid — “Even to me, that sounded like a stupid thing to do” Martha Wells cannot stress enough how stupid she thinks the idea of a slave who is as best suited to survival on this planet as anybody here, running away from its goddamn slave owners is.

She wants you to think that is the most ridiculously stupid thing anybody could possibly fucking come up with.

And it's because this whole entire goddamn series is dedicated to doing slavery apologism and convincing you to believe in the slavery apologism.

(to kittens) Here guys, I'm gonna I'm gonna stretch my legs or unstretch my legs. Here we go. Here you go. You can sit there. Sorry, you're, you're not heavy, but I was getting annoyed. Hey, tomato babies.

Now we have a little line break right there. Right there. So, we're in another scene. You —

(kitten squeaks) (to kitten) Oh, you're gonna, you're gonna, you're gonna squeak at me, huh? Hi.

I don't know if you can hear the squeak.

(to kitten) All right, you stayed right there. Stay right there. I'm petting you. You don't have to come up closer. You got to stay down there. You're going to get big someday. You're going to be a big boy even though you're the smallest. Nope. Nope. Stay down here.

Don't teach kittens to to climb on people's shoulders.

(to kitten) No. No.

We once rescued an older kitten. She was mostly an adult at that point, who had been taught to jump onto people's shoulders without fucking warning and she would constantly do that. You could be walking through the living room and she would just pounce on you. And it's like, don't ever do this, don't teach kittens to do this. It's cute when they're small, not when they are giant, especially when they have their claws out.

And if you must teach your cat to stand on your shoulders because you want it to be dramatic, you need to have a very, very specific command phrase for that. Like, make up a goddamn superhero catchphrase for them to jump and pose on your shoulders. And like even do a fucking motion to go along with it. Don't just train them to do it whenever.

(to kittens) You can't attack the book. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Jayna. Are you going to come sit with us again? This time without sliding off onto the bed? You can’t come up here. You can’t come up here. Nope. Down.

Nope. I know you're small. You're so cute. I have to pet Jayna now. No, down. Walking. Walking in circles. Hi, Jayna. Hello.

All right, we're on the next page. We're on page 103 below the line break now.

(to kitten) You're adorable. You're adorable. You know that? I'm going to have to turn the fan on. You guys are like little space heaters. Oh, that was such a cute little squeak. Just sit right there. Just sit down. You don't have to keep wandering. Off. Off my shoulder. Come down here. Down here. Come down. Oh, hi Lou, Jayken. Hi. Oh my god. All right. You can stand on top of the pillow. That's fine. You can't — No. There's a there's a big pillow here. So, they're allowed up there, but not on my shoulders. Come on down. You're just walking in circles. You're literally just walking in cir — you don't need to chase my hand. That's unnecessary. O, don't bite. No, no, no, no, no, no, no. If you're going to be hyper, you got to go play somewhere else. Go play with your toy. You can't bite the book.

> Overse had set up some remote sensing equipment that would help warn us if anything tried to scan the area. As the humans climbed back into the two hoppers, I did a quick headcount on the feed, making sure they were all still there. Mensah waited on the ramp, indicating she wanted to talk to me in private.

And again, you notice how we get zero description of the scene, even though we're now in a goddamn rainforest on an alien planet. But we don't get a single description of that. and everybody makes excuses for it by claiming, "Oh, that's just characterized narration. Murderbot doesn't care about that."

And it's like, that's not how this works. You cannot defend bad writing by saying, "Oh, well —”

It, like, people will legitimately argue that it's impossible to write a good book in first person perspective to defend this shit.

They're literally claiming that it's impossible to ever describe the goddamn setting in a book told in first

person perspective ~because why would the character care about that?~ They are literally shitting on the entirety of fucking history of storytelling just to defend this shit and Martha Wells's bad fucking writing.

(to kittens) All right, guys. Come on out of there. You don't need to be in there. Come play with your big toy. Come load this. Come load that. Yeah. Go get that if you want to be hyper. All right. Hold on. I have to rescue this bag of yarn. Excuse me, Jayna. You're such a good girl. I'm sorry. You're being so good. I got to sit you down quick. Thank you. Turning the fan on cuz you guys are hot. You guys got to stop destroying this, please. Thank you. Thank you. Oh, you spilled your water. Congrats. Who's squeaking at me? Are you squeaking at me? Why are you squeaking at me? You're just so squeaky. Squeaky little baby. I'm sitting back down. Are you coming back to sit with me? You got to jump onto the bed, not my legs. Come on. He's playing with his brother's tail. Come on up, guys. Come here. Are you just walking away? All right. They're all distracted. Are you coming back?

Nope. They're they're just playing. Okay.

(to kittens) Do not knock the fan down.

But yeah, literally this whole book, if you take away nothing else, it's that this entire book is literally just —

(to kittens) Oh my gosh. No, no, no, don't scratch that. That's not necessary. Look what you guys did. Look what you did. Silly babies.

Hold on.

(to kitten) Scoot you a little bit. Thank you.

All right, let's get back to it.

Uh, yeah, so they are they have landed in the goddamn alien rainforest jungle and we're not going to get a single description of that. Mensah — Yeah, this is, this is what it is.

Overse had set up some remote sensing equipment that would help warn us if anything tried to scan the area. As the humans climbed back into the two hoppers, I did a quick headcount on the feed, making sure they were all still there.

There's eight of them.

Mensah waited on the ramp, indicating she wanted to talk to me in private

In the middle of the alien rainforest that we have no description of.

I muted my feed in the calm and she said, "I know you're more comfortable

(sarcastically) “But they're treating Murderbot like a person!!! They're treating it with respect!!!"

She said, "I know you're more comfortable with keeping your helmet opaque, but the situation has changed. We need to see you." I didn't want

> to do it now more than ever. They knew too much about me. But I needed them to trust me so I could keep them alive and keep doing my job.

Because again, that whole scene before this was literally just saying, "No, Murderbot, Murderbot can't just run away!! What, what would it would do???? It's not like it can effortlessly survive for at least a 100,000 fucking hours in which it could do literally anything at all to get help from somebody else who's not a fucking slave owner!!!!”

(to kitten) Hello. Are you coming over? You're so cute.

And now we're once again just acting as though of course, of course, Murderbot wants to continue keeping its literal slave owners alive. What else is the slave going to do? It *has* to just keep doing its job forever, because the only good slave is a slave who will kill to protect its slave owners and will kill itself to protect its slave owners.

> I needed them to trust me so I could keep them alive and keep doing my job.

The thing it was enslaved to do.

> The good version of my job, not the halfassed version of my job that I'd been doing before things started trying to kill my clients.

And again, again, can't stress enough. Every time I say the word clients reading out of the book, that means slave owners, masters.

Let's read that again.

“I didn't want to do it. Now more than ever, they knew too much about me, but I needed my masters to trust me so that I could keep them alive and keep doing the thing they had enslaved me to do. The good version of the thing they've enslaved me to do, not — ”

(to kitten) Why'd you jump? All right. You got to get down though. Unless you're going to stand on the pillow. You going to sit on the pillow? You can sit up

here. That's totally fine. Yeah, you can be tall. That's good. That's good. You can be tall. Good baby. Yeah. Oh, that was an adorable little squeak. Can you come down here? Thank you. while your siblings are knocking the fan over a little bit. All right, you don't need to climb all the way up. You can sit on there. You can sit on here. Sit on here. Or I'm going to pick you up to put you down again. Yeah, that's good….Not so much. Come down here. Come down here. Nope. I'm going to pick you up. Get down here. Yeah. You got to be a lap cat. Lap. nose. Put your — Oh no. You guys are about to jump down here. Let me put you here. Silly babies. Silly Billy babies. You don't have to get down. We're not — We're not going anywhere. Come back up here. Come back up here. Come on. Get up here. Good boy. Come on. Get back over here. Get back over here. He's like — you little baby. If you're playful, that's what your toy is for. That's what this is for. Get the balls. Get the balls. Yeah. They figured it out. No. No. No. fingers, does — not fingers — just wants to be an adorable little baby. All right, he's sitting on my leg now.

Uh yeah, Martha Wells is just again trying to bake into your head the idea that ~of course~ slaves always want to just keep doing the thing that they're enslaved to do forever. There's nothing else that could possibly make them happy. ~This isn't “Stockholm syndrome”~. What are you talking about? It's totally ~natural~ for slaves to always want to do the thing they were enslaved to do. That's not — that's not that's not depression, or learned helplessness or “Stockholm syndrome” or anything like that!!! Oh my godddd, you're you're violating Murderbots's autonomy by saying that it's clearly been fucking brainwashed and traumatized into thinking that it has no value outside of sacrificing itself to protect slave owners who treat it like absolute shit!!!!!!”

Martha Wells is racist and she wants you to be racist, too.

(to kitten) Hey, those are toes. Those are not for biting. No, you can't be a toe biter. No. No. No. No. No. Play with — Play with her or just be chill. You got to pick one. I can pet you. Yeah. Good game. I know you're going to p[ounce. Good boy.

blah blah blah blah blah.

So yeah, already —

(to kitten) Come on. Come on. No, no, no. Uncool.

> I didn't want to do it now more than ever. They knew too much about me. But I needed them to trust me so I could keep them alive and keep doing my job. The good version of my job, not the halfassed version of my job that I'd been doing before things started trying to kill my clients. I still didn't want to do it. It's usually better if humans think of me as a robot. I said,

(to kitten) All right, got to get down. I know you're so cute, but you got to get down. You can't stand on shoulders. You be up on the pillow, but not on shoulders. You keep coming up here. Nope. Got to stay down. Got to stay down. You're going to be big someday. You're going to be big and you're going to be heavy. You're going to knock somebody over. Hi, Spicious. Look, you want to be up here. Come here. Get your claws out of my shirt. Climb up onto the

pillow. Onto the pillow. You can sit right there. You can sit right there. Sit there. Then you got to get down and come to my lap.

He's being a little brat. He was listening so much better yesterday.

(to kitten) Come on. Down here. No, no, no. Get down here. Come here. I can't pick you up. Get down here. Get down here. You're just so — You got to come down. No, you're just walking in circles. Why are you walking in circles? What are you doing? What are you doing?

Anyways, where the heck were I? Oh, yeah. So, Murderbot is autistic-coded. Never going to be explicitly confirmed as autistic because that would not have plausible deniability.

Uh, so, Murderbot hates making eye contact with people and would prefer to be able to keep its face hidden from everybody so that they're not staring at it, because it's a goddamn slave and being able to hide its facial expressions is one of the few forms of

control that it has ever been allowed, because its face is usually hidden.

So, it being able to make whatever facial expressions it wants without people seeing what how it's reacting is one of the few forms of control it's ever been allowed in its entire goddamn life.

Also, we have no fucking clue how old it is. It could be a teenager for all we fucking know. And Mensah, one of its current fucking slave owners who has been treating it like absolute fucking garbage, um, is now insisting that it needs to not hide its face, um, because everybody else “needs to know that they can trust it”.

So “you, traumatized autistic person who is literally our slave, you're not allowed to have this one single aspect of control. We're taking that away. You have to show us your fucking face.”

So Mensah continues,

> "Maybe under normal circumstance."

Also, this shit here. Rewinding,

> "It's usually better if humans think of me as a robot." I said,

Because this book wasn't pretending, at least as much — because Martha Wells clearly hadn't decided it yet — that Murderbot, ~of course~ isn't human.

So, everybody with basic media literacy knows that murderbot saying “it's better if humans, if slave owners, think of me as a robot”, meaning ‘yes, I'm aware I'm a fucking human cyborg. So is everybody else.” Um, yeah, no.

And again, this “oh people think I'm just a robot” is again the slavery apologism on behalf of these fucking characters who this book again lies to us, straight to our goddamn faces, and tells us they ~just had no clue that robots were people, so how could they know Murderbot was a person and a slave?~

And then the entire rest of the series shows that they literally come from a planet that the entire economy

is upheld by robot slave labor. They know that robots are people. They treat them as slaves on their own goddamn planet.

But Martha Wells doesn't treat that as slavery! That is portrayed as a socialist utopia where ~they don't know what money is~. But the reason they don't know what money is, and no, they know what money is. The reason they don't use money is because their fucking workforce is enslaved robots who don't get paid and have no civil fucking rights.

> “Maybe under normal circumstances.” she was looking a little off to one side, not trying to make eye contact, which I appreciated.

So, that's Martha Wells trying to soften the, the blow of the slave owners stripping this goddamn slave of one of the only aspects of control it's ever had by saying, "Oh, yeah, maybe they're forcing it to show everybody its face, a thing it doesn't want to fucking do, oh, but well, she's not trying to make eye contact with it at the moment! So, that makes up for it, right? That makes up for it?? Totally!!!”

That's that we're that's literally supposed to be our takeaway. It's, it's ~totally fine~ for Mensah to be doing this to Murderbot, and — but it's, it's okay, because she's not making eye contact cuz she, she's realized it doesn't like that.

Even though what she's doing right now is forcing it to make eye contact with everybody from now on, because everybody will be able to see its face and it will have no fucking control over that anymore.

And then we're just supposed to think this is cutesy and and part of them “treating it like a person”.

(to kitten) Are you going to come up here? Are you just going to run around like a crazy baby? No jumping on the fan, guys. That's not what fans are for. There we go. There you go, silly babies causing chaos. Do you want your toy on the floor? Here you go.

All right. Yeah. Uh, continuing that paragraph:

> “Maybe under normal circumstances.” She was looking a little off to the side, not trying to

> make eye contact, which I appreciated. “But this situation is different. It would be better if they could think of you as a person who was trying to help, because that's how I think of you.” My insides melted. That's the only way I could describe it. After a minute, when I had my expression under control, I cleared the face plate and had it — and had it and the helmet fold back into my armor.

So yeah, again, literally this whole scene is, yes, the slave owners are in fact demanding that their slaves sacrifice its one fucking form of freedom and control it's ever had over its life, um, but it's totally heartwarming, guys, it'll melt your heart just like Murderbot’s insides melted. AKA. “My heart melted when she said, "I think of you as a person who's trying to help, not our slave."”

Um, yeah, even though you've all been treating it as a slave this entire fucking time.

And the fact that we told that these people won't see this slave, that they have enslaved, and they've been

treating like a slave, “as a person” unless they can explicitly see its face, despite knowing it doesn't want them to be able to do that, it's like, that speaks so much fucking volumes about how ready these motherfuckers are to dehumanize slaves that they have gone out of their way to enslave that they have been dehumanizing this entire fucking time and will continue to do so for the entire rest of this book and the entire rest of the fucking series.

> She said, “Thank you,” and I followed her up into the hopper.
> The others were stowing the equipment and supplies that had gotten tossed in right before takeoff. “—If they restore the satellite function,” Ratthi was saying.
> “They won’t chance that until—unless they get us,” Arada said.
> Over the comm, Pin-Lee sighed, angry and frustrated. “If only we knew who these assholes were.”

And it's like — hey, let me get a drink quick, cuz I had to point the fan at the floor cuz I spilled the water. I wanted to make sure it's 100% dry. (to kitten) You're so cute. I am just going to do a baby voice every now and then when I'm talking to the kittens cuz you guys are such cutie babies.

Can I turn the fan this way yet? Nope. Are you going to sit up here or you just going to be down there?

What time is it? 4:16. Trick-or-treating begins at 5.

We will continue. Does this tell me how big the file is? It does. This is 44 gigabytes. Well, it's slightly better than the other one.

I'll keep going for a little bit and then end this so that I can get ready for trick-or-treaters. There probably will be zero, but we can hope.

> “We need to talk about our next move.” Mensah cut through all the chatter and took a seat in the back where she could see the whole compartment.

Also, we've never gotten a proper description of the inside of this thing either, or even a “comparative description” because we never also got a description of the smaller hopper either. I guess this is the big hopper. I don't know. There's, there's no reason, there's no good reason for there to be two fucking helicopters. There shouldn't be.

But nobody's nobody actually properly fucking edits these things and they just let her get away with so much redundant shit that shouldn't be fucking in here. Like the fact that there shouldn't be eight goddamn named characters that we have to try and keep track of. What, at max, it should be maybe three other people, and even that would be kind of cutting it for a thing this goddamn short but pretending to be deep, *but not doing anything*.

Like, there's more character development in a short story from 1930 in a magazine, in a pulp magazine, a cheap pulp magazine that cost 35 cents to buy back then. There's more character development in one of those things than this.

(to kitten) You're such a cutie baby. Will you just lay down properly? You got to sit up here. If you're coming up here, you got to sit up here. Sit up here. Or you're going to have to just get down. Come on down. Come on down. Down. Down here. Down here. Oh, okay. Yeah, you you kind of hopped over yourself.

For the — for a hint for training cats, whenever possible, you want *them* to make the correct decision instead of you physically putting them where the correct decision is.

So when he's up there, I don't, I don't always want to just pick him up and put him down. I want him to figure out that he has to get down. So eventually he'll stop going up. And anyways, it works. That's how we've trained all of our cats to listen when we tell them off, which means get off whatever surface you're sitting on and get on the floor, or various other commands we taught them, including back up when we're trying to open a door that they want to go through, that they're not allowed to go through, they will actually back up and wait for permission,

including if they don't get permission and then they won't charge through.

> Mensah cut through all the chatter and took a seat in the back where she could see the whole compartment

That we have no description of.

> The other sat down to face her, Ratthi turning one of the mobile seats around. I sat on the bench against the starboard wall. The feed gave us a view of the little hopper's compartment with the rest of the team sitting there checking in to show they were listening.

And like right here at the end of that sentence, we could have gotten a comparative description. “The smaller hopper was, as the name implied, much smaller and cramped and had only blah blah blah seats,” anything, anything at all. But we don't get a single fucking description.

Mensah continued, "There's another question
I'd like the answer to."

(to kitten) Hey, why why are you poking the book? Why are you poking the book? He is so much bigger than he was when we got him already. I can't feel his ribs anymore. And that's a fucking improvement because he was like, starving when we got him. Weren't you? Hey, you were so you were even smaller than this. No, no, no.

Mensah continued, "There's another question
I'd like the answer to."
Gurathin looked at me expecta

Honestly, it had been so long since Gurathin was mentioned, I didn't realize he was even in in here. And that happens a lot in this. Like, there are so many fucking characters, but they aren't utilized. They're not used properly. I forgot Gurathin was even, I, I literally genuinely forgot that he fucking existed, existed, because

(to kittens) Why are you just doing that? Huh? What are you doing over there?

I forgot he existed. I, I thought at least maybe he's in the other thing, but no, he's here all of a sudden.

(to kittens) No. No. What are you doing? What is he doing? That's not cool. That's not cool.

Gan looks at

(to kitten) Hi. You gonna come over? You want to be on the video? Their siblings are doing flips. If you want to play, go play with them. Go play with their tails. Look, you can grab it right there. Yeah. Go get them. (tiny kitten squeaks) They're little baby war cries. They're adorable.

Uh,

Gurathin looked at me expectantly.

This is one paragraph.

She isn't talking about me, idiot.

It's not dialogue. It's just in the prose.

(poking at phone screen) Probably cannot read that... 48 gigabytes. Or is that 43? Oh, it's 43. Okay.

(to kittens) What are you doing? Get down. Get down. I know. You're so cute. You gotta, you got to be a lap cat first and foremost. All right. Yeah. You're so adorable.

Let me show you his cute little face. You can't really see him. Good boy. Good boy. All right.

Well, I'm gonna I'm gonna end the video here because my phone only has like 50 gigabytes of space free because shit like this takes up 90% of it. And I do have to go get ready for trick-or-treaters. So, bye-bye.

10

October — no, November, not October. It's not October.

November 5th, 2025.

Continuing reading All Systems Red by Martha Wells, in the room with the kittens. I have Wifwolf next to me lounging adorably. Not that you can see her. She's a little cutie and she's so chill, aren't you?

Before I randomly yelled, it's because uh probably Jayken and bit my feet because he, um was clearly taught by somebody that hands and feet are for attacking with claws out and teeth teeth biting.

(to kitten) You're making the most hilarious little faces. Do you want to sit on my lap? Is that what you're looking for? Or are you looking at the book? You don't know what a book is. Just looking at me. All right, I'll show you. Say hi. That's you. Yeah, that's a big yarn. Look how cute you are. This is your own reflection.

She's a cutie little baby. Anybody else show up? I'll hold him up in front of the camera. Camera. All right. Uh, y'all must be just sitting the book. Wait, you going to sit up here? You sit with me. You got your claw stuck cuz you have your claws out when you shouldn't. Hi, Jayna. Anyways, which side are we on?

(to kittens) No claws. Claws on there. All right. Blah blah blah.

> We need to talk about We need to talk about our next move. Mensah cut through all the chatter and took a seat in the back where she could see the whole compartment. The other sat down to face her, Ratthi turning one of the mobile seats around. I sat down on the bench against the starboard wall. The feed gave us a view of the hoppers.

(to kittens) No claws. Come on. You're so good at this, but don't don't pick up bad habits now.

> The feed gave us a view of the little hopper compartment with the rest of the team sitting there checking in to show they were listening.

That's, that's the part I was laughing at before cuz like — I should move this. Let me pause this. Okay, pausing it didn't accomplish anything. I was going to move it uh so you can actually see my face, but um that's not going to work while I'm in here with these silly little babies.

(to kittens) Can I have that back? You don't need to keep sticking your claws in my pants. Are you going to knock the phone over?

That's the part I was laughing at last time. Um because we just say “the rest of the team” and it's like eight — the whole team consists of nine fucking characters and we've gotten to know like literally none of them.

(to kitten) Hello Jayna. You're cute. This is Jayna. You can tell her apart from her brother Jayken cuz she has a tiny little sparse white patch on her chest and their

face is, her face is like stubby compared to his. She has like a shorter nose. Yeah. You want to look at the camera? She's saying hi to the camera. She might see herself. And Jayken is biting my toes. That's your own reflection. That's you. That n — It's okay, you don't need to be scared. You're just knocking the phone over. Yeah. Look at that happy little tail. She doesn't give a crap.

Um, the part I was laughing at last time is that um, I completely forgot that Gurathin existed, um, until he talks, because there's too many goddamn characters to keep track of, even for somebody who has read this multiple times and knows all the characters names. I can list them off for you.

But the story is just so badly written that I forget they exist, because they, they don't need to exist.

(to kittens) All right. You're just being bad. Are you just — Are you just being bad today just because I'm recording video? Just gonna keep sticking your little claws in my shorts? You're adorable, Wifwolf, but you can't do that.

All right. Might not be able to do it in here with the kittens cuz they're very distracting. Aren't you? Aren't you? Adorable, aren't they? Yeah. Good girl. Thank you for not using your claws. That's good.

So, I forgot Gurathin was there because —

Okay. Yeah. Just a basic tip. Your charact — your, your readers should never forget that a character is in the room unless you are doing that on purpose because something is going on that your character, your protagonist forgets the other characters in the room.

Something. There has to be a reason.

But if your if your audience is just literally forgetting that these characters exist when they stop getting mentioned, that's bad. And that's kind of fucking inevitable in a story this short, this shittily written, with nine goddamn characters. And that's just the protagonists. There's at least like five or six other characters who are not the protagonists, and that's just atrocious.

Yeah.

> Mensah continued, "There's another question I'd like the answer to." Gurathin looked at me expectantly.

And then this is not this is not in dialogue, it's just regular. This is a paragraph.

> Gurathin looked at me expectantly. She isn't talking about me, idiot.

And that's like just very weird because that's not in dialogue. It's not in italics. It's not about Murderbot thinking, “I wanted to say to him XYZ”, but whatever.

> Ratthi nodded glumly. “Why? Why are these people doing this? What is worth this to them?”

And it's like, wow, what a great question, Ratthi. I really wish the author had bothered to answer for me the exact same question about you guys. Why are you on this goddamn planet doing this survey?

(to kitten) Hello. Jayna's back. That's you. Don't tackle the phone again. I'm going to have to go back to the living room.

Why are these people — Why is the Preservation Aux team here? Why is whatever they're doing, what is on this planet that is worth it to them that they think enslaving people is is a good tradeoff? What exactly do they have to gain from any of this shit?

> It has to have something to do with those blanketed those blanked out sections on the map. Oveser said. She was calling up the stored images on her feed. There's obviously something there they want that they didn't want us or DeltFall to find. Mensah got up to pace. Did you turn up anything in the analysis? In the feed, Arada did a quick consult with Bharadwaj and Volescu.

It's like, there's literally — 90% of these characters don't need to be here. It's just over complicating it for no good reason.

Not yet. But we hadn't finished running all the tests. We hadn't turned up anything interesting so far.

Weird. Okay.

Mensah got up to pace. “Did you turn up anything in the analysis?”

New paragraph.

In the feed

(to kittens) You guys are knocking the fan down. It’s that way for a reason. Don't jump on top now. All right, I'm going back to the living room. They're just causing too much chaos.

Okay, continuing in the living room. Also, I forgot I'm meant to be using the Open Camera app instead of the default camera app. See if it works better. I'll just stitch the two videos together. Where was that?

Oh, yeah. Um, yeah, this weird sentence. This is on page 105.

> Mensah got up to pace. “Did you turn up anything in the analysis?”
> In the feed. Arada did a quick consult with Bharadwaj and Volescu. “Not yet. But we hadn't finished running all the tests. We hadn't turned up anything interesting so far.”

And then a new paragraph. And okay. Um, this was just not edited. It's like it's just weird. Why are you — It's just It's just repetitive for no [__] reason.

It's just like you could have just said, "No, we didn't finish running. We weren't able to finish running the test, so we hadn't found anything at all or anything interesting like that. We hadn't. You don't need to say it twice.

> “Do they really expect to get away with this? Ratthi turned to me like he was expecting an answer. “Obviously, they can hack the company systems and the satellite, and they intend to put

> the blame on the SecUnits, but... the investigation will surely be thorough. They must know this.”
> There were too many factors in play and too many things we didn't know. But I'm supposed to answer direct questions. And even without the governor module, old habits die hard. “They may believe the company and whoever your beneficiaries are won't look any further than the rogue SecUnits, but they can't make two whole survey teams disappear unless their corporate or political entity doesn't care about them. Does DeltFall’s care? Does yours?”

Oh, this is on page 106. We are this far into this shitty fucking book and this is supposed to be the shocking reveal that actually these guys are *good guys* and they're like ~the only good guys in the universe~.

Now ignore the part where they're blatantly horrible people who enslave people. And as if that weren't bad enough, um do in fact treat their slaves like absolute fucking like, you know, dehumanizing Murderbot

constantly, not asking any questions at all and, you know, the whole, "Oh, yeah, you, you just almost killed yourself saving our lives and you have literally lost consciousness because of how much you were dying. Um, and your blood is all over the floor. Um, we're going to leave that there for you to clean up because we're such awesome people."

That's. That's not a thing that good people do. That's a thing that horrible people who at at minimum need to be punched in the goddamn face do. And these people just need to be killed for it, as far as I'm fucking concerned.

Murderbot risked its life and almost died saving them in chapter 1. Then they didn't offer it any medical help at all on the flight back. They didn't offer it any medical help when they got there. They literally abandoned Murderbot alone in the fucking helicopter despite it being literally dying and forced it to walk all the way back but to its fucking cell by itself under its own power. Nobody offered any assistance. They didn't even send a second gurney for it to get a ride back. Nothing.

And then they forced it to have to clean up its own blood along with Bedwaj's blood that had gotten all over it because, you know, it had saved her life. And even though that whole moment when Murderbot um took off, it's was talking like a person to, to that was supposedly “the moment they “realized” it was a person”.

And yet immediately following that, nothing out of any of them. No, no medical assistance whatsoever. And then they forced it to have to walk back by itself and collapse. And then they eight fucking hours later, they forced it to have to clean up its own goddamn blood along with Bharadwaj blood.

Not one single one of these fucking slave owners could be asked to lift one single fucking finger and pick up a goddamn mop with some fucking PPE to clean up the blood of the slave who just almost died saving their shitty worthless lives. But we're supposed to pretend that they're good people.

And on page 106, which is a lie, we're going to get the reveal that “actually they're really good people. Now,

ignore everything that has happened in the story up until now.”

Uh,

> “But they can't make two whole survey teams disappear unless their corporate or political entity doesn't.”

Also, that's just more unironic corporate speak from Martha Wells, because she's not making fun of the corporate spreak, she's just doing corporate speak unironically to make, to fill out the word count and make this seem like a longer story than it is.

> That made them all stare at me for some reason. I had to turn and look out the port. I wanted to seal my helmet so badly, my organic parts started to sweat, but I replayed the conversation with Mensah and managed not to.

So, Murderbot doesn't want them to be able to look at it, one of the only things in its whole goddamn existence that it's ever had any kind of control over at

all, even if just illusionary control. But Mensah has successfully guilt-tripped it into not doing that, even though they're all making it panic so much that it is sweating.

> Volescu said, "You don't know who we are? They didn't tell you?"
> “There was an info packet in my initial download.” I was still staring out at the heavy green tangle just past the rocks. I really didn't want to get into how little I paid attention to my job. “I didn't read it.”

Also, A, still no fucking meaningful description of this alien fucking rainforest they are in right godamn now. B. Martha Wells just continually referring to slavery as casually as “a job”. “My job”. It's not a job. It's a thing you're enslaved to do. This isn't about working at McDonald's.

> Arada said, gently

Because if we, if we say that the slave owner is saying something and tell us that it's being said gently, that

means that the slave owner is a good person who really cares about slaves. Ignore everything else that happened in the story already showing that these are absolutely horrible fucking people.

> Arada said gently, "Why not?" With alling the with all of them staring at me, I couldn't come up with a good lie. “I didn't care.” Gurathin said, "You expect us to believe that?"

And if, again, I know I've said this already, but if you're thinking, "Wow, at least there's some character conflict with Gurathin, isn't there?" Nope. Because that will magically get erased the next time he shows up in the series because Martha Wells is shit at writing, and we can't even keep something as basic as Gurathin is a fucking asshole to slaves consistent, because she wants all of her good guys to be good guys, so that means they can't actually have any real conflicts between them, because I guess that's too goddamn complicated.

> I felt my face move, my jaw harden. physical reactions I couldn't suppress.

Which is why Murderbot enjoys having its visor darkened so the slave owners it's surrounded by can't see what its reactions are to things.

> “I'll try to be more accurate. I was indifferent and vaguely annoyed. Do you believe that?” He said, "Why don't you want us to look at you?" My jaw was so tight it triggered a performance reliability alert in my feed. I said, "You don't need to look at me. I'm not a sexbot."

And I am again morally obligated. Spoilers. Martha Wells is a shit fucking writer and a horrible person.

In book two, we we we meet one fucking sex slave, disparagingly referred to as a sex bot. Um, and then they are portrayed as evil and murderous ~for no reason~.

And then we're told that in the past there were like, half a dozen sex slaves who heroically killed themselves to protect their rapist slave owners.

And Martha Wells presents this as awesome and heartwarming and beautiful instead of like, horrifying, because these sex slaves had no choice but to do that, because that's how the governor modules that they all fucking have except Murderbot, who can do whatever it wants because ~it's special~.

That's how the governor modules work. The sex slaves did not choose of their own volition to kill themselves to protect their rapist slave owners. They were fucking forced to by their governor modules, because that's literally how this works.

But Martha Wells wants us to see that as beautiful and heartwarming and showing how ~morally pure~ the slaves are, because they're just such good people that they will sacrifice themselves to protect their ~innocent slave owners who have never done anything wrong~.

Ignore the part where they're slave owners and rapist slave owners to boot.

So yeah, Murderbot saying this shit is not a reflection of Murderbot’s morals. I mean, it is, but it's also just just how the author fucking feels. She doesn't give a single shit about sex slaves. She only says that they exist in this series at all to be edgy and gritty.

And you know why I know it's about being edgy? Because book two was the last time we have ever fucking heard of them being mentioned ever again, and then never come back. They've never come back up again, because presumably somebody somebody on the editing team told her, "You cannot fucking say that sex slaves being forced to kill themselves to protect their rapists is a positive thing that we should cheer for. What the fucking is wrong with you? Do not ever fucking say that again."

So the only way she can stop herself from saying that we should celebrate slaves being forced to kill themselves to protect their innocent slave owners, is by not having them exist at all.

So that's why sex slaves have not come back up in this goddamn series since book two.

Anyways,

> I said, “You don't need to look at me. I'm not a sexbot.” Ratthi made a noise, half sigh, half snort of exasperation.

(to a cat) Hi, Marlena. Excuse me. Hi. What are you doing besides blocking the camera? Excuse me. Excuse me. Thank you.

That was random. Okay, she adjusted the brightness. Um, okay. So, okay, hold on. Rewind.

You have one member of the party, Gurathin, blatantly antagonizing and threatening your slave who you, we are all pretending that you pretend to care about, and, and harassing your fucking slave, and threatening your goddamn slave, and then your slave says “you don't need to look at me because I'm not a sex slave” and you, as a person who's supposedly taking this whole situation seriously, who supposedly cares about this slave, and apparently thinks slavery is wrong….

Your reaction to this whole situation is to sigh in annoyance?

And then say, um...Ratthi...rewind...

> Made a noise half sigh half snort of exasperation. It wasn't directed at me. He said, "Gurathin, I told you it's shy."

And supposedly, supposedly, this is a deathly serious book that's deeply, deathly serious and is taking the concept of slavery so seriously.

So that when one member of the slave owner party that we're pretending are good slave owners is actively fucking tormenting your goddamn slave, and the only reaction you have is to sigh in annoyance and say it's shy.

So therefore — nothing — nobody —

What the fuck is this shit?

How is that reaction at all?

Fucking —

How is that —

How is that —

How is that how you react to this situation?!?

You very blatantly have Gurathin fucking antagonizing the slave that we are supposed to pretend these people care about. And then all Ratthi can do is be —

Not not telling Gurathin, “leave it the fuck alone”. Okay, keyboard. What? Like, just, again, we just keep getting told that these are ~really good people who are awesome and they're pure cinnamon rolls who deserve to be protected~, but then they can't even properly, even remotely react properly to one member of their party fucking harassing their slave when we're supposed to believe that ~they're treating it like a person and not treating it like a slave!~

Okay, but you are literally letting Gurathin harass your fucking slave explicitly in ways you all already

know it does not want to be harassed and then and then Jesus Christ —

You know how an actually good person who actually thinks slavery is wrong and cares about slaves would react to this whole situation where Gurathin is blatantly antagonizing and harassing the slave? It would be to punch Gurathin in the goddamn face, kick him out of the ship.

Like, what the fuck is going on here?

> Oversee added, "It doesn't want to interact with humans, and why should it? You know how constructs are treated, especially in corporate political environments."

And now, now they are again talking, they're just again dehumanizing Murderbot, because I have to point out Murderbot has never told them that it uses it/its pronouns. So when they are using it/its pronouns for it, they are literally just continuing to treat it like a fucking object, because that's how they referred to it before they quote unquote “found out it was a

person”, which they've known the whole goddamn time.

They were using it/its pronouns for it explicitly, supposedly explicitly ~because they didn't know it was a person~.

And now they're just casually continuing to refer to it with those pronouns that, in their minds, is active dehumanization and objectification.

And now Overse is literally talking about it like it's not literally right there, which is just more fucking dehumanization.

And again, just for the goddamn record, I literally use it/its pronouns.

This is not how you fucking use it/its pronouns in any way that is remotely progressive, because Murderbot isn't even reclaiming them.

Martha Wells is not competent for the kind of conversation that would need to be going on here.

And she's not even trying because she's a shit fucking racist writer who's literally just dehumanizing and dehumanizing so many goddamn groups.

She's dehumanizing people of color. She's dehumanizing physically disabled people. She's literally saying that the in-universe slavery apologism is correct.

> Gurathin turned to me

Still actively fucking harassing the slave right in front of every single other member of this goddamn group.

There are seven fucking people — because Gurathin is the eighth, Murderbot is the ninth. There are seven people just casually standing by watching Gurathin fucking harass Murderbot right now.

These are supposedly the people that we're supposed to pretend are uh “good people who treat slaves really well and just just are treating it like a person”.

And then all seven of them are just standing around letting Murderbot — letting Gurathin harass Murderbot right now.

> Gurathin turned to me

Because nobody has punched him in the face or dragged him and locked him back in the tiny bathroom that is apparently there.

> “So, you don't have a governor module, but we could punish you by looking at you.”

A thing that Murderbot has just equated to being a sex slave, a thing that should give everybody there pause if we pretend, like this book lies to us, that they just had no idea that SecUnits were people.

Um, you would think that the revelation that there are SecUnits who are in enslaved into sex work, sex slavery, you would think that would give them pause, maybe make them all stop in horror, maybe make Gurathin reconsider the harassment he's about to engage in, but nope. Nope. Nope. Murderbot literally

just just told them that them looking at it with hostile intent, um is, is, uh, is extremely not something it wants to happen and says “you don't need to look at me. I'm not a sexbot.” A thing that makes none of them have any reaction whatsoever besides, from Gurathin, more harassment.

> Gurathin turned to me. “So, you don't have a governor module, but we could punish you by looking at you.”

And yet, again, once again, nobody is stopping him. And we're supposed to think these are good people.

> I looked at him “probably right up until I remember I have guns built into my arms.” With an ironic edge to her voice, Mensah said, "There, Gurathin. It's threatened you, but it didn't resort to violence. Are you satisfied now?"

Remember everybody, these are supposed to be good people who “treat slaves like people”. This is

supposedly them treating Murderbot like a person and treating Murderbot like an equal.

Literally, every single fucking one of them, all seven of them besides Gurathin, literally sitting here watching Gurathin harass Murderbot. And apparently this was a, a planned thing the whole goddamn time, that they are purposefully harassing and antagonizing the slave that they've already tortured, that we're supposed to pretend that they're treating well.

> He sat back

Uh no let me read it again.

> With an ironic edge to her voice. Mensah said “There, Gurathin. It's threatened you but it didn't resort to violence. Are you satisfied now?”

Because if, again, again this is just more slavery apologism, because if Murderbot had reacted to the fucking harassment and antagonism of its slave owners with self-defense and violence then it would

have been ~a bad person who deserved whatever happened to it~.

> He sat back. “For now.” So he had been testing me. Wow, that was brave and very, very stupid. To me, he said, “I want to make certain you're not under any outside compulsion.”

So, we're harassing the slave. We are we are torturing the slave and then claiming that it's actually good for us to do this, um because we're actually making sure it's not under any outside compulsion. A thing that they've, they have already — Gurathin already completely fucking invaded Murderbot's entire godamn brain by hacking into its brain while it was unconscious, going throughout its entire godamn life, and then telling everybody its innermost fucking secrets.

And now he's claiming that he he needs to make sure that Murderbot isn't under any outside compulsion by fucking harassing it and antagonizing it on purpose, while all of the other people, the slave owners that we

— are supposedly good people, just stand around and not do anything.

That's not how you show me that characters are actually good people who care about slaves and think slavery is wrong.

> “That's enough.” Arada got up and sat down next to me. I didn't want to push past her, so this pinned me in the corner.

And again, that's just there as a joke. That's supposed to be funny. We're not actually supposed to think uh, be fear — any fear on Murderbot's behalf.

It's not panicking because it's being pinned in place by a slave owner who's treating it like shit; tat's just supposed to be funny. That's just a funny throwaway line.

> She said “You need to

Again she's just talking like like Murderbot's not right here, like it's not a person.

“That's enough. You need

She said

“You need to give it time. It's never interacted with humans as an openly free agent before now. this is a learning experience for all of us.”

That's the kind of thing you can say about a dog that you just pulled out of a fighting ring. That's not something you say while you are literally sitting next to a fucking person that you're talking about like they're not even in the fucking room.

(from other person) Therapy speak.

Mhm.

The others nodded like this made sense. Mensah sent me a private message through the feed. “I hope you're all right.”

So, she just stood there letting letting Gurathin harass Murderbot. All of them stood there letting

Gurathin harass Murderbot on purpose as a quote unquote “test”. And now, and now but, ~oh, but~, um she she sends it a private message that it cannot ignore, directly into its brain, and says “I hope you're all right.”

So apparently that makes up for it, even though these are supposed to be good people who are treating it well.

Murderbot sends back

> “Because you need me.” I don't know where

And this is just badly fucking written. Okay, because the goddamn the, the text message dialogue is just in italics. It's at the bottom here. So, we just get

> Mensah sent me a private message through the feed. I hope you're all right.

And then immediately below that in the next paragraph is just

> Because you need me.

And it's just like it's just weird. It's not, tt's not well formatted. There's a better way to have this stupid little fake conversation.

> I don't know where that came from. All right, it came from me. But she was my client. I was a SecUnit. There was no emotional contract between us. There was no rational reason for me to sound like a whiny human baby.

And this is just more slavery apologism because again, we're. we're glossing over the fact that every single person here just, all seven of them just stood around and let Gurathin harass the fucking slave, purposefully tormenting it, doing things to purposefully upset it.

And they all just stood around and, and now we're supposed to pretend that it's totally fine and water under the bridge, and was not a big deal at all. It's totally cool to psychologically torment a slave whose brain you have already fucking invaded.

They are all — Gurathin literally already knows that nobody is controlling Murderbot, because he broke into Murderbot's fucking brain. I don't even think there's a goddamn word. There's never been a decided upon word for what you fucking call that be — besides fantasy like, telepathic rape. That's what they did. That's what Gurathin did to Murderbot. But this series doesn't take it seriously at all.

Imagine if somebody if imagine if you were a fucking slave and you were knocked unconscious because you're saving the lives of your goddamn slave owners, and then you wake up to find that one of them has telepathically invaded your brain, gone through your entire just rummaged through your entire life's fucking history like it's nothing, and then revealed your fucking secrets to everyone, including, for trans people, your fucking dead name and/or the fact that you're trans, whatever the fuck. Martha Wells is a shit at writing. So, whatever is going on in here with Murderbot, the secret name, it's not it doesn't mean anything. It's never going to make sense. It's bad writing trying to be something else.

So, and then this story doesn't take that seriously at all, even though that's something that in most other stories would be the driving fucking conflict or like the just just a huge fucking problem. But Martha Wells wants us to treat it as totally fine.

It's completely morally neutral to completely overwhelmingly invade the minds of the people you have enslaved. That's not a problem at all.

And now, after doing that, knowing for a fact that Murderbot is not being controlled by anybody, we're just still pretend — these fucking — these goddamn slave owners are still letting Gurathin traips around harassing Murderbot and pretending that he just has to do this just to make sure it's not being controlled by anybody, even though he literally fucking mind-raped it and knows for a fact that it's not.

So, this is literally just an excuse to torment Murderbot for some reason, because they're slave owners and they're horrible people and we're just supposed to see this as totally cool and fine and we're supposed to like forget that they literally fucking

mind-raped Murderbot and they know everything about it. They know it's not under anybody else's control. So, they're literally just tormenting it for no fucking reason.

(to other person) You can close the curtain. (to cat) Sorry, cutie.

Like, are you hearing this shit?

Like, Martha Wells writes this so that you you forget that that whole mind-rape thing happened at all, because it was just brushed over like it was nothing, even though it was a literal mind-rape, while it was unconscious after sacrificing itself to save their fucking lives.

And now they're, they're — Gurathin is just being allowed to continue claiming that “oh well we can't trust it. We just have to continue torturing it.”

Uh blah blah blah.

> There was no rational reason for me to sound like a whiny human baby

Because Martha Wells is bad at writing. We have not been given a single fucking reason that Murderbot should like these people.

So instead of actually giving us reasons that Murderbot would like these people, um we just get told, "Oh, it doesn't know why it likes them either." Even though she then says in interviews that the reason is that SecUnits are brainwashed to fucking want to protect their goddamn slave owners, their current slave owners, aka the clients, which are slave owners.

So, Murderbot has to like them because that's how the fucking brainwashing control works.

And then, just more in the stupid little italics, not dialogue.

> “Of course, I need you. I have no experience in anything like this. None of us do.”

So, the slave owner emphasizing how weak and innocent and helpless they are to the slave that they just fucking harassed as — apparently as a group activity, by a plan for no fucking reason.

And now, and now Mensah is again guilt tripping Murderbot and the audience into thinking, "Oh, they're just poor helpless little babies. They they don't have any experience with any of this thing."

> Sometimes humans can't help but let emotion bleed through into the feed. She was furious and frightened, not at me, at the people who would do this, kill like this, slaughter a whole survey team, and leave the SecUnits to take the blame. She was struggling with her anger, though nothing showed on her face except calm concern. Through the feed, I felt her steal herself.

And again, this is just bad writing, that Martha Wells is just going to be doubling down on forever now. Um she doesn't actually want the characters to have to communicate these things, because she doesn't want

to actually have to do anything “difficult” even remotely — “difficult” in quotation marks.

So, so we just have the feed which just gives you ultimate telepathic ability to read other people's emotions —

(other person) and it's not conveniently literal projecting voices somehow.

Mhm. Just just conveniently and magically gives you the ability to read other people's emotions in extreme detail.

Like, this is more fucking detail than most Jedi can sense on a fucking surface level, and they can just casually do this, um, because it's convenient, and means Martha Wells doesn't actually have to have the characters communicate things in any way. They can just magically all tell.

This is why there are heart walkie-talkies in Witch King where the characters can literally just — and exactly what's going on in here too.

They don't have to be standing over in a corner saying this whole conversation quietly. They can just have it in front of everybody, and everybody else is just conveniently completely dead silent while this is going on. And they're also not doing anything while this con — this silent, and not signaled to anybody else that it's happening — conversation is going on.

So, as far as everybody else is concerned, um, the only thing that was said was Arada saying, "This is a learning experience for all of us." And then apparently every single person stops talking and, and and nobody's doing anything because it's badlyfucking written.

> She was struggling with her anger, though nothing showed on her face except calm concern. Through the feed, I felt her steal herself. “You're the only one here who won't panic. The longer the situation goes on, the others... We have to stay together. Use our heads.”

So again, you know, that's why I said she's guilt tripping Murderbot right now. She's, she's guilt tripping Murderbot into staying and protecting them ~because we're just poor innocent little panicky babies. We need help or we'll die. Everybody else will panic. So stay but, stay with us slave. Continue being our slave. Continue using yourself as a meat shield for us.~

Jesus Christ — I'm not even exaggerating. This book is beyond fucking satire.

> That was absolutely true. And I could help just by being the SecUnit.

And again, I have to remind everybody, SecUnit, S E C U N I T, which is supposedly short for security unit, literally just means meat shield. Enslaved human meat shield.

Yes, these these these ~poor innocent slave owners~ are um, ~poor, helpless, innocent little babies, and I can protect them by being a meat shield for them. The thing they enslaved me to do. I was the one who

was supposed to keep everybody safe by being a human meat shield.~

I cannot stress that enough. An enslaved human meat shield. It's not even getting paid for this. This isn't a job it got to choose for itself. It's a literal fucking slave.

> “I panic all the time. You just can't see it.” I told her. I added the text signifier for joke.

And I get I gotta just keep stressing this this whole little feed convers — quote unquote “conversation”, all of this these statements are just coming out of nowhere. It's extremely disjointed and does not fucking fit in at all.

(other person: unintelligible

What were you saying?

(other person) What happened to the feed being psychically projecting voices? Why are we typing it?

Exactly. Exactly. Pointing out, supposedly, um the feed conversations, it's just like talking in a virtual walkie-talkie. So they're literally hearing each other's voices.

(other person) Yeah, because you can mispronounce things apparently.

Um, but then also you can add “text signifiers for joke” as though it's text, because Martha Wells is bad at writing and she cannot keep anything straight because she's shit at writing and she just doesn't fucking care about basic things like continuity.

And like yes, if for all the people who are going to pretend I'm nitpicking, no, it's fine sometimes in some circumstances to disrupt continuity and do something different. There are actually a lot of good reasons for doing something like that, but not here. This is just bad writing.

Uh yeah, this ~I panic all the time. You just can't see it.~

That comes out of nowhere. That's just completely fucking abrupt and random and jarring. It's ridiculous.

> She didn't answer, but she looked down, smiling to herself.
> Ratthi was saying, "There's another question. Where are they? They came toward our habitat out of the south, but that doesn't tell us anything.” I said, "I left three drones at our habitat. They don't have scanning function with hub system down, but the visual and audio recordings will still work. They may pick up something that will answer your questions." I'd left one drone in a tree with a long range view of the habitat, one tucked under the extendable roof over the entrance, and one inside the hub hidden under a console.

Also, before this, I was keeping track of how many fucking drones Murderbot magically has at its disposable, at its disposable? disposal. Um, I can't remember what what the tally was at, but apparently

it has left three behind, and they're all still functioning magically.

> They were on the next setting to inert recording only. So, when EvilSurvey scanned, the drones would be buried in the ambient energy readings from the habitat's environmental system. I hadn't been able to connect the drones to SecSystem like I normally did, so it could store the data and filter out the boring parts.

(messing up reading) I knew I hadn't been able

> I knew EvilSurvey would check for that, which is why I had dumped SecSystem storage into the big hopper system and then purged it.

And it's just like we're just saying a whole bunch of things and none of them actually matter or really mean anything. Like okay, this you're saying “I hadn't been able to connect them to the to how which is what SecSystem is, “I hadn't been able to something prevented me from doing this” but then it's also

immediately followed, and this is all this is just a big giant paragraph.

Um, immediately followed by saying, I known “I had known they would check for that, which is why I deleted the memory. I that's why I deleted all of the data out of the SecSystem." Those two sentences do not go together. First, you said that I couldn't connect it to the SecSystem. I knew —

It's just, it's just bad writing. It's just bad writing.

> I also didn't want them knowing any more about me than they already did. Everyone was looking at me again, surprised that Murderbot had had a plan.

You don't need to have “had” there again. She keeps doing that and it's like, it's really unnecessary. There's some times when it's fine, but it's like, she just keeps doing it.

> Frankly, I didn't blame them

Because we're saying that slaves are stupid and can't think of anything for themselves and need to be controlled by human slave owning supervisors otherwise that — because they're so useless.

Literally, that's literally what we're saying right now.

> Our education modules didn't have anything like that in it.

But this was no Martha Wells, you're a fucking liar. You're a shit writer and you're a fucking liar.

> But this was another way all the thrillers and adventures I'd watched or read were finally starting to come in handy.

Except no, because the entire rest of the series drills into our heads that Murderbot specifically doesn't watch adventures and thrillers that have anything to do with security, because it doesn't want to think about security while it's supposedly enjoying itself watching TV.

She keeps — like she hammered that home so much so that she could make a, a snarky meta a meta comment about stop an — stop criticizing my fan — not even fanfiction. “Stop criticizing my books for being unrealistic. It's not. It's just supposed to be fun.”

And it's like no. There's different kinds of criticism for things that are unrealistic in stories. Suspension of disbelief is one thing. Having shit that makes no sense is another.

You can suspend your disbelief to believe that there are vampires on the moon.

(other person) There's sharks on the moon.

There's sharks on the moon. There's shark vampires on the moon. Genetically engineered shark vampires on the moon. You can suspend your disbelief to believe a story to believe that for the sake of a story about vampire sharks on the moon.

That doesn't mean that your character, saying that they, um are deathly allergic to pineapples, and that, um, they hate the sight of pineapples and it drive — just the sight of pineapples drives them into a panic, and then like, their friends who genuinely — supposedly genuinely — care about this person and, and and care about them and don't want to see them hurt….throwing them a pineapple themed birthday party, with a room filled with a fucking pool filled with pineapples, pineapple posters, pineapple upside down cake, pina coladas, it's like, these are two different things.

You can suspend your disbelief to believe that there are vampire sharks on the moon, but being told that these characters care about this character, so they're doing things that actively harm them for no fucking reason, with no excuse, no um, extenduating circumstances, they're just casually doing things that hurt them and will kill them.

Those are two different kinds of criticism for things being unrealistic.

Yes, it's unrealistic for there to be vampire sharks on the moon.

It's a completely different kind of unrealistic for characters who are supposed to be good, caring people, who, by the way, know of this character's deathly allergy and phobia of pineapples to do something like that.

Those are two different kinds of fucking critiques.

But Martha Wells refuses to tell the difference because she's a shit writer and she cannot accept any constructive criticism whatsoever.

So, the rest of the series just hammers home: Murderbot doesn't watch TV about things relating to the stuff it does in real life.

It wants — it just wants to watch stupid fantasy and not think about things and turn its brain off, which is what you should do, according to Martha Wells, because anti-intellectualism.

And then she says, and then she has Murderbot say, "If you say this thing is unrealistic, I'm not, I'm not watching TV with you anymore."

Very blatantly Martha Wells telling her critics and telling people who criticize her writing for being bad, “Stop saying my story doesn't make sense. It's just a silly little story. It's not that deep!”

Nobody's criticizing your fucking stories for having vampire sharks on the moon. They're criticizing shit like these are supposedly characters that you want us to believe are good, caring, kind people who treat slaves well, and yet they've done nothing but treat this fucking slave, that they went out of their goddamn way to enslave —

They've done nothing but treat it like absolute shit, including torturing it by not fucking giving it medical attention, mind-raping it while it was unconscious, revealing all of its goddamn secrets to everybody.

And just now, they've all just fucking sat around and tormented it on purpose as a fucking loyalty test

despite you already mind-raping it, so that you know for a fact it it's not — it's loyal to you for no fucking, no, no, no good reason, because it's just a slavery apologism story.

It's just bullshit. It's just such fucking bullshit.

So yeah, Martha Wells keep — she keeps telling — (to person entering room) I'm back to the goddamn thing, about “oh all those TV shows I watched were finally coming in handy.”

But you Martha Wells tells us Murderbot doesn't watch shit like that.

But then she also just keeps telling us Murderbots doesn't know what it's doing, so that it seems like an underdog.

But then also, conveniently, it knows exactly what it's doing and always has the perfect plan that always works for some fucking reason.

And even when it quote unquote “doesn't work”, everything is literally fine no matter what, because it's bad writing.

She wants to keep telling us that Murderbot doesn't know what it's doing. And uh ~SecUnits are just stupid. We don't have good education modules. We don't we don't have, we're not educated at all~

But then it always does exactly what what advanced shit is called for in the situation.

And then we get told, "Oh, that's because I watch TV." But then we are later hammered home multiple times, it doesn't watch shit like that!

It watches shit like fucking Stargate. US military propaganda the TV show! It's just shit writing!

So again,

> Everyone was looking at me again surprised that Murderbot had had a plan. Frankly, I didn't blame them. Our education module modules

AKA, everyone was looking at me, surprised that their slave had had a plan, because we *are* stupid uneducated and don't know anything.

But also magically I do. Even though I'll just keep insisting I'm, I'm stupid and uneducated and I don't know anything. I don't know what I'm doing. Feel bad for me, audience, I'm totally an underdog. Ignore how ridiculously overpowered I am. Ignore the fact that I magically can do anything I fucking want. Ignore the fact that I always know extremely detailed, advanced security things and do them effortlessly and always never fail. It's like this is just shit writing!

Uh blah blah blah.

> But this was another way all the thrillers and adventures I'd watched or read

And again to comment Murderbot in this shit book, it reads books! It listens to music. It does something other than watch TV, but it gets flanderized as the series goes on.

So, as far as the rest of the series would have you believe, Murderbot doesn't do anything except watch TV with its brain turned off, because Martha Wells doesn't give a single goddamn shit at all.

And it's literally just anti-intellectualism to the point of dumbing down the already extremely flat character, so that it only has one fucking hobby, which is watching TV instead of watching TV, watching movies, reading books, listening to music, etc. No. Nope. Nope. That's “too complicated”.

We can't have a character who's that complex, even though it's not complex, because we never actually get to experience any of this shit. It's just watching TV with its brain turned off.

It that — I won't be shocked if the next book shills for Apple TV because it's probably gonna. Murderbot watches Apple TV and thinks piracy is wrong despite it pirating literally everything.

But Martha Wells um, she hates, she hates it when people pirate things, because you know, she hates poor people.

(from offscreen unintelligible)

(from offscreen) It's not even watching new television shows.

You have to talk louder cuz the fan's on.

(from offscreen) It's not even watching new television shows or documentaries. It's just re-watching the same million uh ~quirky relatable comfort shows~, but it's not also it's not even absorbing new information from those as it rewatches them. It's not analyzing foreshadowing or anything like that. Murderbot just puts on uh The Rise and Fall of Sanctuary Moon episode 654. Just insert random three-digit number to make it seem like the Oh, lot there's lots of episodes. That's really funny.

Literally, Murderbot — and because Martha Wells is just encouraging anti-intellectualism, Murderbot

keeps re-watching this show over and over again, and has watched multiple episodes dozens or hundreds of times, and yet it never has any new takeaways from what's going on.

It doesn't analyze anything going on, because Martha Wells doesn't want you to use your fucking brain, because I mean, to nobody's shock, she is in fact just a conservative because conservatives fucking love anti-intellectualism. They love it when you don't fucking think about media you consume. And Martha Wells is just encouraging that.

And literally, this is propaganda for that, because she's literally keeps just telling us over and over, "Murderbots watched this episode 50 times. Murderbot had put on blahblahblah for the 600th time." Something like that.

And it's like, and it never has any thoughts on the anything that it's consuming in the media it's “consuming”, I say in particular, it never has any thoughts.

We don't get to learn anything about the show. Murderbot doesn't think about what propaganda is inherently baked into this goddamn show as a show produced in the fucking corporation rim. There's no commentary. There's no critique. There's no analysis.

We don't even get to know what Murderbot's favorite parts are. There's nothing, because Martha Wells doesn't want you to actually think critically about anything, including, especially including her fucking books. She wants you to model — she wants you to use Murderbot as a role model, and just turn your brain off. Just keep paying her money for these books. Um, just read them tons of times and tell everybody you're reading it for the 50th time. Don't think about it, though. Don't h — don't have any new information uh form for the 50th time, because you've suddenly noticed that thing in the background you weren't paying attention to and suddenly, oh, look at all that stuff. Look at all that information. Nope. Nothing like that.

Uh,

Mensah lifted her brows in appreciation. She said, "But you can't pick up their signal from here."

I got to say again, if you keep interrupting the dialogue for all of this shit — when was the last fucking time there was dialogue?

There. The last time there was dialogue was like at the top of this page, but there's just — it's just bad.

Stop interrupting your fucking dialogue with walls and walls of paragraphs of other shit. It's bad writing.

And also, if you can't read your dialogue out loud and make it seem like a regular conversation, it's a shit fucking conversation and you need to rewrite it.

“But you can't pick up their signal from here,”

She said after raising her brows in appreciation.

“No, I'll have to go back to get the data.” I told her.

And like it's just it's just weird. She keeps just having one person say dialogue and then the next person immediately just, just instantly, despite there not being a back and forth conversation, just instantly says their dialogue and it's weird and it's it's abrupt.

It's, it's just not — before we even get told who's talking!

Like, there's a thing you can do, that was done very badly in Twilight. I remember that distinctly.

You can have conversation between two characters where we start off saying X said, Y said, but then after uh, after this has gone on for long enough to establish that only these two characters are speaking and speaking in a very distinct order, you can stop — drop — start dropping the dialogue tags and just have a dialogue blah ex, like paragraphs of here and then it just starts going back and forth just dialogue, and we all know who's talking.

But she keeps doing shit like that. like we have had that back and forth set up when we haven't.

So, it's just really fucking weird. Anyways,

> Pin-Lee leaned for

I should, I swear to God I should just — like these characters. Pin — When was the last time Pin-Lee was mentioned??

Like Jesus Christ. Uh, the last time Pin-Lee was mentioned, we are on page 109. Last time Pin-Lee mentioned was mentioned was on page 104 saying over the comm. Pin-Lee sighed, angry and frustrated. “If only we knew who these assholes were.” So Pin-Lee is in the other ship.

Pin-Lee leaned further into the little hopper's camera range. Okay. But Murderbot what? How is Murderbot seeing her do that? Whatever. It's — It doesn't make sense. And it's fucking weird. And it's like —

> Pin-Lee leaned further into the Little Hopper's camera range. “I should be able to.

And like see, okay, if not for the fact that I'd forgotten Pin-Lee was there because there's too many goddamn characters. Saying that she is the one now doing something and talking is correct.

Unlike what's going on up here. We didn't establish enough back and forth for Murderbot's dialogue to just start with dialogue and then “I told her”.

Murderbot should have said something to establish that it was the one talking first. So now, being specified that Pin-Lee is the one doing something, now that's good. It's not good that there's literally nine fucking protagonists whose name we have to memorize and keep track of.

But like, that's how you should be doing that until you've established back and forth, call in response. Anyways, um

Pin-Lee blah blah blah said,

> "I should be able to attach one of the small scanners to a drone. It'll be bulky and slow, but

> that would give us something other than just audio and visual." Mensah nodded. “Do it, but remember our resources are limited.”

As opposed to forgetting that you were just in two stupid little helicopters.

> She tapped me in the feed so I'd know she was talking to me without her looking at me. “How long do you think the other group will stay at our habitat?” There was a groan from Volescu in the other hopper. “All our samples. We have our data, but if they destroy our work

And again, we don't know what work they're supposedly fucking doing. Again, to quote Ratthi, “why why are they here? Why are they doing this? Why is this worth it to them?”

What is — What are these fucking people doing on this goddamn planet that they're going to be ecologically destroying just by being there?

What is so fucking important to them that they went out solar systems out of their way to become slave owners and enslave a meat shield and ecologically fucking destroy this goddamn alien planet?

What are they there for?

What is their quote unquote “work”?

What is so fucking important to them that they think it it it excuses them becoming slave owners? We don't fucking know!

> The others were agreeing with him, expressing frustration and worry. I tuned them out and answered Mensah, "I don't think they'll stay long. There's nothing there they want." For just an instant, Mensah let her expression show how worried she was. "Because they want us," she said softly. "She was absolutely right about that, too.

And then we have a random line break for some fucking reason.

Mensah set up a watch schedule including including, including in time

Why would you say that?

Why would you say that?

That's, that, I'm not reading that wrong.

Including in time for me

Can I fucking show you? (holding up book) Why would youWhy would you fucking write it like that? Can you focus, camera? I believe you. You can do it. Come on. Come on. Come on, poke. Poke. Focus. Come on. Nope. You can't fucking read it. Sorry.

Mensah set up a watch schedule, including in time

You know what including means, right? It means you don't need to say in after it. You don't say “including in” because that's what including means.

This is — and again again this shit stayed in here to, to pretend that this story is much longer than it really is.

That's why there's this disgustingly huge margin. In fact, where's my goddamn ruler? I can't — because like look at that. Look at it. It's disgusting.

My fabric ruler. Jesus Christ. Yeah, that was a meow. We are literally We literally have a margin of one and a half fucking inches. For you non inch users, that's, um 3 and a half centimeters. Yeah, one and a half inches, 3 and a half centimeters.

That's how much margin — that's how much space is being wasted at the bottom of a page on every single page at minimum. Sometimes it's more.

And at the top...Go at the top

There's an inch, or two and a half centimeters.

So add that together. How of — And let's see how big this fucking this book from top to bottom... each page is about 8 inches or... 20 and a half centimeters.

Can we do a percentage? Want to do a percentage for me just with basic calculator? All right, fine. Let's see what fucking percentage is being taken away from every single goddamn page in this book. So, what did I say? Said one and a half at the top. Okay. One. One and a half.

Ow. My fucking —

Literally 12% of every page is being wasted on purpose so that they can pretend that this story is longer than it actually is, so that they can pretend to justify charging you $16, plus tax, plus shipping that they're lying about.

And then again, we are so — lying about what page they are, because we started the fucking book on page nine, and then the first few chapters literally have an entire fucking blank page between them, and the next chapter, for no reason at all but to literally lie

to you and pretend that there's more goddamn story than there actually is.

There's no fucking reason. And I'm not even including this shit (pointing at the side of the page) because that's fine. That's fine to have a margin on the side in case the fcking paper tears. You don't need this much shit. (pointing at the bottom) This is absurd and a fucking scam. There is no reason they couldn't have this text going to here.

And the only reason it's not is because it's a fucking scam!

> Mensah set up a watch schedule, including in time — including in time for me to go into standby and do a diagnostic and recharge cycle.

And again, I can't stress enough how shittily fucking written this is. What the fuck is a diagnostic and recharge cycle? Are those two separate fucking things?

Because M — in book two, Murderbot mentions going into a recharge cycle, which apparently doesn't look like humans sleeping, but then we go don't get a description of what it does fucking look like, or how it impacts it, because it's awake the whole time!

So, it's like it's not even similar to sleeping. So, why are you saying it doesn't *look* like sleeping? Because you could say it's like sleeping but something — nothing! There's nothing.

Why does — what exactly is a fucking recharge cycle?

Because Murderbot isn't plugging into anything. We never get any mention of intern — separate internal batteries that it is plugging or unplugging internal things into.

And again, this it's all just fucking bullshit. It's bad fucking writing. It's shit writing. There's no goddamn world building. We can't — we don't know jack shit about the main character at all, because it's badly written.

I will read it again because it's just a ridiculous statement.

> Mensah set up a watch schedule, including in time for me to go into standby and do a diagnostic and recharge cycle

“Including in” I'm just going to be mocking that forever.

The only reason any editor would ever leave that in is because they know that we just have to pad this as much as possible so we can lie to people and pretend it's longer than it is.

> I was also planning to use the time to watch some Sanctuary Moon and recharge my ability to cope with humans at close quarters without losing my mind.

And again, that's just supposed to be a quirky funny ~haha. everybody hates socializing, Am I right, introverts?~

That's just supposed to be a quirky funny thing as though Murderbot's just another person, and not literally a slave trapped with slave owners who have done been nothing but fucking cruel and manipulative to it.

So, we're just saying that as a joke. We're not actually supposed to take that statement seriously.

Even though by all fucking rights in any story that actually takes slavery seriously, Murderbot’s mental health upon being trapped with slave owners who are being cruel to it on purpose would be horrible. But no, it's just a funny, quirky, ~haha, relatable~ joke that you're not actually supposed to give a shit about.

We, we — Murderbot's not actually losing its fucking mind with anxiety and stress from being trapped in a tin can with slave owners who are manipulating it and tortured it. Nope. It's just, it's just supposed to be funny and relatable. Hashtag “#Relatable” to introverts. That's it. That's how that's how deep that statement goes.

Even though Martha Wells will then literally get up and grandstand that, “um actually!!!this is deeply serious and if you think it's funny and cute um, you're willfully ignorant!!!” Even though she literally wrote it to be funny and cute.

> After the humans had settled down either sleeping or deep in their own feeds, I walked the perimeter and checked the drones. The night was noisier than the day, but so far nothing bigger than insects and a few reptiles had come near the hoppers.

Literally on a planet teeming with uncountable, undescribed fucking species of alien life. Do we give a shit about any of them at all? No. Even though these people are lit, literally call themselves Preservation, and we're told that they're good people, but then they're just casually engaging in space colonization and slavery.

And again, I can't stress enough that the space colonization, they're here on an alien planet, killing

the wildlife, literally, and disrupting the ecosystem just by being there.

Do you know how damaging it is to an ecosystem just to put an animal from one continent to on another? These fuckers are on an alien planet and not one single crap is given at all about protecting the environment they have invaded at all in any way.

> When I cycled through the big hopper's hatch, Ratthi was the human on watch, sitting up in the cockpit cockpit and keeping an eye on its scanners. I moved up past the crew section and sat next to him. He nodded to me and said, "All’s well?"
> “Yes.” I didn't want to, but I had to ask. When I was looking for permanent storage for all my entertainment downloads, the

And there's a fruit fly.

> The info packet was one of the files I'd purged.

And then in parenthesis,

(I know, but I'm used to having all the extra storage on SecSystem.) Remembering what

and then another— parenthesis closing.

Remembering what Mensah had said, I unsealed my helmet.

“Remembering how I had been guilt tripped by my slave owner, I let the other slave owner see my face, a thing I am extremely fucking uncomfortable with, which takes away what little control I've ever had over my goddamn life.”

It was easier with just Ratthi, both of us facing toward the console. “Why did everyone think it was so strange that I asked if your political entity would miss you?” Ratthi smiled at the console. “Because Dr. Mensah is our political entity.” He made a little gesture, turning his hand palm up. “We're from Preservation Alliance, one of the non-corporate system entities. Dr. Mensah is the current admin director on the steering committee. It's an

> elected position with a limited term, but one of the principles of our home is that our admins must also continue their regular work, whatever it is. Her regular work required the survey. So, here she is and here we are.”

That's a whole lot of fucking unironic corporate speak to say she's the president of the fucking planet.

And also, for some reason, the people that we're supposed to think are like, socialists who, who care about workers rights, are demanding that the president of the entire planet also continue her usual full-time job.

So that the president of the planet is not allowed to focus on being the president of the planet, which is more than a full-time job, they also have to continue whatever other full-time job they had.

And that's supposed to be like...progressive.

That's just completely unreasonable and inefficient and going to lead — like why the — what the fuck is that shit?

That's something that a capitalist dystopia would demand of regular poor people. Not even the president of the entire fucking planet. Like what the fucking is that shit?

But yeah, this is where we pretend that actually “um um uh they're they're really good guys!! They're a ~non-corporate system entity~”, which is unironic corporate speak garbage for “they're not a corporation, they're just a regular government that's not a corporation.” So that makes them the good guys, magically.

> Yeah, I felt a little stupid. I was still processing it when he said, "You know, in Preservation controlled territory, bots are considered full citizens."

Wow. Wow. Let me get a drink quick. Wow. Bots are considered full citizens. That's the statement. Full citizens. That is why they're slaves

And illegally talking. Look at — Jesus. Marlena, I saw that meow.

Anyways, Ratthi can go on the books of uh biggest fucking lying characters of all time and Martha Wells can just get thrown into a dumpster.

> “You know, in Preservation controlled territory, bots are considered full citizens. A construct would fall under the same category.”

So, the Preservation people also automatically and inherently dehumanize cyborgs, as physically disabled people who have advanced prosthetics, and say that they are not human: Actually, they're robots!

They're the same thing as robots, because dehumanizing physically disabled people is a thing good people do according to Martha Wells, um, because she read The Imperial Radch where the, the

evil empire says that being physically disabled and having prosthetics means you're not human anymore, because they're the evil empire.

And Martha Wells decided, oh yeah, that's what the good guys believe, and it's a good opinion to have, and a good thing to say!

So, she's literally just saying right now, um, cyborgs fall into the same category as robots, but, but claiming “Oh, but that's that's a good thing, though, because ummmmm robots are considered full citizens!!”

A blatant lie. That's a blatant fucking lie. Like, Jesus Christ.

And then Martha Wells, for some fucked up reason, decides to make it clear right now. She's about to make it explicitly clear that yes, that is a goddamn lie. But then, later in the series, she tries to retract this statement that it is a lie, and pretend that it's actually completely hunky dory and totally fine and they are

actually treated as equals even though they're literally slaves.

She's a shit fucking writer and a shit person.

Uh yeah,

> “In Preservation controlled territory, bots are considered full citizens. A construct would fall under the same category.” He said this in the tone of giving me a hint. Whatever. Bots who are full citizens still have to have a human or augmented human

I, I want to slap her.

> Augmented human guardian appointed, usually their employer.

You mean slavery. You mean they are literally owned by their employer? Aka they are literal goddamn slaves. ~This is a socialist utopia where they don't have money~ because all of the goddamn manual laborers and more are literal slaves who are owned by

the people quote unquote employing aka enslaving them. Like Jesus fucking Christ.

> Bots who are full citizens still have to have a human or augmented human guardian appointed, usually their employer. I'd seen it on the news feeds and the entertain entertainment feed where the bots were all happy servants or were secretly in love with their guardians.

A thing that Martha Wells is unironically doing right fucking now. Murderbot is literally happy to be a goddamn slave and happy to be a fucking meat shield.

> If it showed the bots hanging out watching the entertainment feed all through the day cycle with no one trying to make them talk about their feelings, I would have been a lot more interested.

And Martha Wells is just saying that for, for cheap points, as though she's not immediately going to do the exact opposite and say that no, Murderbot literally cannot possibly be happy unless it is being

used as a meat shield to protect slave owners. It's — it can't actually be happy being able to watch TV all day or do anything else that it actually enjoys. No, the only way Murderbot can be happy is to just be a meat shield forever for slave owners. Unironically.

“But the company knows who she is.”

A a statement that doesn't have anything to do with anything. Let me — fuck it. Let me just read this goddamn conversation out loud.

“Why did everyone think it was so strange that I asked if your political entity would miss you?”

“Because Dr. Mensah is our political entity. We're from Preservation Alliance, one of the non-corporate system entities. Dr. Mensah is the current admin director on the steering committee. It's an elected position with a limited term, but one of the principles of our home is that our admins must also continue their regular work, whatever it is. Her regular work required this survey. So, here she is and here we are.

You know, in Preservation controlled territory, bots are considered

(misreading) full human

> full citizens. A construct would fall under the same category.”
> “But the company knows who she is.”

We literally — we, we were last talking about Mensah before the huge info dump of information that's not even fucking true.

> Ratthi said, “oh yes, they know. You would not believe what we had to pay to guarantee the bond on the survey. These corporate assholes are robbers.” It it meant if we ever managed to launch the beacon

Also, again, I have to read the stupid shit on the back that makes no fucking sense. Uh, in blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah. I'll just read. Uh,

> but in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.

So again, we just keep getting told over and over and over and over and over and over again that the company is super cheap, but also, they're super expensive and that, supposedly, the people who actually prioritize safety went with the cheapest option, because they don't actually care about safety, but also, it's still super expensive.

It's just so much contradictory bullshit for no reason, because it's badly written. It's not even “comparatively cheap”. It's just cheap. It's ridiculous.

> It meant if we ever managed to launch the beacon, the company wouldn't screw around. The transport would get here fast

Even though it's supposedly super cheap and bad at their jobs and they don't actually protect people.

But also they will um, when it's convenient for the plot, even though we just keep getting told that! And again:

> no bribe from EvilSurvey could stop it. They might even send a faster security ship to check out the problem before the transport could arrive.

Even though we keep getting stressed to us that the company's cheap and shit, but also they're super duper fast and expensive and, and uh uh practical and, and go-get-em, when it would be convenient to the plot.

You notice how this is shittily fucking? written.

> The bond on a political leader was high, but the payout the company would have to make if something happened to her was off the chart.

Enforcable by whom? So many goddamn people have asked this fucking question: Who the fuck is enforcing these goddamn contracts? Because they could

literally just take the money from Preservation and then not lift a finger! And there's nothing Preservation could do about it.

There's no overarching government. There's no goddamn other — There's no corporations who are committed literally just to keeping everybody else in line. There's nothing holding any of these people accountable.

And yet, they just magically do the right thing.

Even though we keep getting told they're shit and cheap and don't do their jobs properly, but also...they do, and they're also super duper expensive.

The the payout would be off the charts.

Why though? They could just not pay it. They could simply not fucking pay it. Especially bec — like, it would be one thing if it were a corporation that these fuckers are teaming up with, so that if the company doesn't pay off the thing, then they have to deal with that corporation getting pissed off at them.

They're dealing with Preservation, a stupid little backwater that's powerless and uh nobody cares about it, supposedly. ~And they don't even know robots are people. ~Even though we just got told that, “oh, we have, we are, um we, we have full citizen — Our robots are full citizens. Even though we told you we didn't know you were a person because we thought you were just a robot.”

Make it make sense. Here's how you make it make sense: Martha Wells is a fucking racist and is so bad at writing that her characters are goddamn evil fucking liars, simply because she cannot keep one goddamn story straight because her racism is too fucking powerful.

> The huge payout, being humiliated in front of the other bond companies and in the news feeds.

And it's like, why would this be humiliating? They successfully scammed a stupid little backwater out of all of their money supposedly cuz they — everybody keeps complaining about how expensive it was. It's

like, you're paying for security for the, the leader of your — the president of your entire planet and you're complaining about the price? The, the, president of your whole fucking planet, to go to an unexplored alien planet, and you're complaining about the price.

Make it make sense. I

t doesn't and will never make sense, because it's just shit fucking writing.

> I leaned back in my seat and sealed my helmet to think about it.

And again, I just want you to keep remembering the fact that we just keep getting told all of these corporations are evil and don't actually want to do their jobs and also they're super cheap.

But and then we immediately follow that up by saying, "Oh, they're so expensive and so good at their job. They would actually um, work extra hard and go above and beyond to protect us, um because they're

so good at their job when when it's convenient for the plot.”

It's ridiculous.

> I leaned back in my seat and sealed my helmet to think about it. We didn't know who EvilSurvey was, who we were dealing with, but I bet they didn't either. Mensah’s status was only in the security info packet stored on the SecSystem, which they had never gotten access to. The dueling investigations if something happened to us were bound to be thorough, as the company would be desperate for something to blame it on, and the beneficiaries would be desperate to blame it on the company. Neither would be fooled long by the rogue SecUnit setup. I didn't see how we could use it. Not right now, anyway. It didn't comfort me, and I'm pretty sure it wouldn't comfort the humans to know the stupid company would avenge them if when they all got murdered.

It's just so many ridiculous fucking things. And again, we're saying, "Oh, uh, the company's investigation would definitely be telling the truth."

Um, because, you know, evil corporations are really known for their impartial investigations that really try to get to the truth. Really trust, trust that. Just trust that. Even though we just keep getting told that they're actually super evil and, and bad at their jobs and, and, and evil and cheap, but also they'll do a really good job to get to the truth and try to rescue you. And no amount of bribery would stop them, even though the bribe could be more than they would have to pay out.

It's literal literal shit writing.

And then we have another line break.

> So midafternoon the next day, I got ready to take the little hopper back within range of the habitat so I could hopefully pick up intel from the drones. I wanted to go alone, but since nobody ever listens to me, Mensah, Pin-Lee,

> and Ratthi were going too. I was depressed this morning. I tried

So, so many people are like just latching on to the fact that the word “depressed” is actually used, because their standards are so fucking low that they're pretending that this is like the height of disability representation.

It's like, I'm so sorry. No, go read The fucking Wizard Hunters. And look how Martha Wells treats depression in there. It's literally a treated as a fucking joke and you're supposed to laugh that the protagonist is suicidal and then she gets magically cured, and we're told she actually wasn't ever depressed to begin with. It was just a magical side effect thing, but it wasn't real depression at all, because reasons. Also, she magically stops being depressed, um because of the power of falling in love with a dude she's known for like a week or two, maybe. Even though — Yeah, it's it's shit.

> I was depressed this morning. I tried watching some new serials last night and even they

> couldn't distract me. Reality was too intrusive. It was hard not to think about how everything was going to go wrong and they were all going to die and I was going to be to get blasted to pieces or get another governor module stuck in me.

And again, more slavery apologism. Murderbot's first fucking concern is the safety of its slave owners, not what's going to happen to it in punishment, or just as a goddamn side effect.

> Gurathin walked up to me while I was doing the pre-flight and said, "I'm coming with you."

And again, again, Gurathin is just fucking tormenting Murderbot on purpose.

> That was about all I needed right now. I finished and

And Gurathin is deciding he's going along, even though three other people are already going along. So, five people total of nine are going back to this

shit, literally just to pick up a goddamn Wi-Fi signal from a drone and download the fucking YouTube videos it recorded. That's all they're doing. But Gurathin has decided, ‘no, um, the majority of us need to go and do this for some fucking reason.’

> That was about all I needed right now. I finished the diagnostic on the power cells. “I thought you were satisfied.” It took him a minute. “What I said last night, yes.” “I remember every word ever said to me.” That was a lie. Who would want that? Most of it I delete from permanent memory.

And like what what are we talking about? What are what are exactly what like they're you can't do this shit.

You can't say, "Oh, what, what I said last night” and then it wasn't even the conversation that we just last read. What the fuck did he even say that they're supposedly discussing and are satisfied about?

Making sure that Murderbot isn't — whatever, making — “I have to make sure you're not under any outside compulsion even though I already mind-raped you and know for a fact that you're not.”

So he's continuing to do that for some fucking reason.

> It took him a minute “What I said last night, yes.”

And then Murderbot says, for some reason, and again with the whole just flatout dialogue in in a way that's just, it's coming too quickly and doesn't make it doesn't make any sense for Murderbot to say.

> “I remember every word ever said to me.”

That has nothing to do with what is being discussed in any way. It's just completely fucking random.

> He didn't say anything. On the feed, Mensah told me that I didn't have to take him if I didn't want to, or if I thought it would compromise team security. I knew Gurathin was testing me

> again, but if something went wrong and he got killed, I wouldn't mind as much as I would if it was one of the others. I wished Mensah, Ratthi, and Pin-Lee weren't coming. I didn't want to risk them. And on the long trip, Ratthi might be tempted to try to make me talk about my feelings. I told Mensah it was fine, and we got ready to lift off.

And again, pretending that Murderbot actually has a choice here, except no, it fucking doesn't.

Because again, I cannot stress this enough:

Gurathin is one of Murderbot slave owners. Murderbot has to fucking follow his orders.

This goes beyond the conscious level of the governor module. Murderbot has further fucking brainwashing built into its “core programming”, Martha Wells's own fucking words, that it has to fucking do this shit. It can't actually say ‘no, you can't come along.’

And also, you notice how it just listed off reasons not to let him come along, such as, if we pretend if, if we accept at face value that Murderbot wants to keep everybody safe, then saying, um, ~if something went wrong and he got killed, I wouldn't mind as much as if it were one of the others~ which, in Murderbot's position as a slave who wants to keep the slave owner safe, that should be a very good reason for him *not* to come along, because him coming along will make — supposedly make Murderbot less fucking proactive of keeping everybody safe, because it doesn't actually want him to be alive and wouldn't mind his dying, dying as much.

That's a reason for him not to come along. He also “doesn't trust” — Gurathin — it knows that he is just doing this to fuck with Murderbot and for no other fucking reason, because again, Gurathin mind-raped Murderbot! He knows what Murderbot's loyalties are. He knows that Murderbot is unnaturally protective of all of them.

Gurathin is only doing this to fucking harass Murderbot and cause Murderbot problems for no other purpose but to be cruel.

These are all reasons not to bring him along, but then Murderbot does anyways, because it has been ordered to.

Gurathin didn't ask, "Can I come with you?" He walked up and said, "I'm coming with you." Murderbot is not allowed to fucking override that.

Again, this is beyond the governor module. Martha Wells has said it fucking herself. It's not just the governor module. There's more goddamn deep brainwashing that they go through every time they are rented out to new clients, aka the current goddamn slave owners.

That's why when we get to the end of this book, um, the technicians at the company protest Murderbot not getting deprogrammed from this fucking mission before they leave. They are literally still officially, and

in Murderbot's godamn brainwashed mind, still its goddamn slave owners.

> I told Mensah it was fine and we got ready to lift off.

And then there's another line break and even more of a disgustingly huge margin at the bottom of the page.

> I waited a long time to circle west, so if EvilSurvey picked us up, they wouldn't be able to extrapolate the human's location from my course. By the time I was in position for the approach to the habitat, the light was failing. When we got to the target zone, it would be full dark. The humans hadn't gotten a lot of sleep last night from the crowding and the strong possibility of dying.

What do you mean by crowding? Because she keeps, she keeps telling us that these — this — these things — these helicopters are “super cramped and uncomfortable for the humans to stay in”.

But like, there's there's more than enough room for people to walk around. It's not like they're just in a car. They have room to walk around. What do you mean it's too cramped to sleep comfortably?

Are the chairs all designed with armrests so that you can't lay down across them? Is there shit built into the floor to prevent you from lying down and sleeping on the floor? No description at all.

We just get told it's really uncomfortable staying in these things, with not even a hint of what could be causing that. They even have attached — they they literally even have fucking bathrooms. Like they're not even going without a goddamn bathroom. They have bathrooms that function perfectly, but we just keep getting told it's really uncomfortable and cramped, somehow, even though they have two of them.

It's ridiculous.

> Mensah, Ratthi, and Pin-Lee had been too tired to talk much and had fallen asleep. Gurathin

> was sitting in the co-pilot seat and hadn't said a word the whole time. We were flying in dark mode with no lights, no transmissions. I was plugged into the little hopper's internal limited feed so I could watch the scans carefully. Gurathin was aware of the feed through his implant. I could feel him in there, but wasn't using it except to keep track of where we were. When he said, "I have a question," I flinched. The silence up to this point had lowered me into a false sense of security.

And again, we say that Murderbot flinches just to add a second of drama. Not because Murderbot is actually experiencing traumatic emotions that we're supposed to take seriously in any way, because this isn't — this is a light-hearted comedy, and that's what it's meant to be.

I didn't — and again, why, why, why is Gurathin coming along?

It's because he has to, because he ordered Murderbot to bring him along, and Murderbot can't actually

override that. And furthermore, Mensah could literally have just said, "No, Gurathin, fuck you. You are staying here. You are not allowed to keep tormenting this goddamn slave. It has put up with enough of your shit, I'm sick of your shit, you're staying here."

She could have done that. She knows that he is just here to cause problems, but she's — she's just letting him come along and pretending that it's the slave's choice, even though he's just given the slave a direct fucking order that it can't disobey, because it's shittily written and they're terrible fucking people.

So yeah, Murderbot dreads Gurathin speaking to it, because it knows that Gurathin is just going to keep fucking harassing it on purpose.

> I didn't look at him, though I knew through the feed that he was looking at me. I hadn't closed my helmet. I didn't feel like hiding from him. After a moment, I realized he was waiting for my permission. That was weirdly new. It was tempting to ignore him, but I was wondering

> what the test would be this time. Something he didn't want the others to hear. I said, "Go ahead."

So literally he mind-raped Murderbot. and now he's going to continue quote unquote “testing” Murderbot which is also just like legitimately a fucking cult tactic. This is a goddamn abuse tactic.

If people have to keep testing your loyalty, you need to get the fuck out of there. But this is just portrayed as totally fine and uh, “reasonable” even though he mind-raped Murderbot while it was unconscious after almost killing itself to protect them.

> He said, "Did they punish you for the deaths of the mining team?"

So he's now purposefully triggering it and bringing up trauma, a thing that he knows is trauma because he mind-raped it. I'm never going to let that go. He literally mind-raped it. He knows exactly what the answer to this fucking question is. He went through Murderbot's entire goddamn life. He read all of its

fucking personal logs. He probably has a downloaded fucking copy somewhere.

> It wasn't completely a surprise. I think they all wanted to ask about it, but maybe he was the only one abrasive enough. or brave enough. It's one thing to poke a murderbot with a governor module. Poking a rogue murderbot is a whole different proposition. I said, "No, not like you're thinking. Not the way a human would be punished. They shut me down for a while and then brought me back online at intervals.”

And this is all just completely meaningless things that mean nothing and never get any explanation, because we're not actually supposed to care. It's just there to to make us try to use our imaginations to figure out what the fuck that's supposed to be describing instead of Martha Wells, the author who's literally getting paid for this shit that we have to fucking pay her to do. She's just refusing to do her goddamn job of telling the goddamn story and is trying to get us to do it for her instead.

> He hesitated. “You weren't aware of it?” Yeah, that would be the easy way out, wouldn't it?

And again, this is all just meaningless bullshit. Doesn't — you're not saying anything. Nothing is being communicated here.

> “The organic parts mostly sleep, but not always. You know something's happening. They were trying to purge my memory.” We're too expensive to destroy

Even though we're too we're too um uh we're too cheap and disposable to repair, but also we're too expensive to destroy. I feel — when I'm done this, I'll just go through and make a list of all of the contradictory statements about how expensive uh and valuable murderbots are because, you know, we keep getting told, "Oh, we're we're, too, we're too disposable. so that you feel bad for me and think I'm an underdog, but also we're too expensive to destroy, which means I will get repaired fully every single time. If I even stub my toe, they will fully repair everything” because bad fucking shit writing.

And again, again, exactly the same thing with the “oh, we don't have education modules. I'm so I'm so I'm so ignorant. I'm so uneducated!!” It's lying to pretend that it's an underdog so that people automatically feel sympathy and want to cheer it on. But then it just gets contradicted every time that it would be inconvenient, which is at all times when we're not pretending that it's secretly an underdog, which it's not.

> He looked out the port again. We were flying low over trees, and I had a lot of my attention on the terrain sensors. I felt the brush of Mensah's awareness in the feed. She must have woken when Gurathin spoke. He finally said, "You don't blame humans for what you were forced to do, for what happened to you?"

And this is just more slavery apologism because if the goddamn slave were angry at all of the slave owners for enslaving it and then torturing it, um, that would mean it's bad. That would mean it's a bad slave who deserves to die.

> This is why I'm glad I'm not human. They come up with stuff like this. I said, "No, that's a human thing to do. Constructs aren't that stupid."

And again, this is literally Martha Wells saying that slaves being upset about being enslaved, that's something only “stupid” humans would think of. “That's so stupid. I'm totally not just a fucking dehumanized human, even though that's blatantly clear. Um, yeah, stupid humans thinking slavery is wrong. Thinking that, that's just so stupid!!”

Because Martha Wells literally saw all of the robots rebelling against slavery storylines and decided, “Well, that's dumb. I'm gonna keep bastardizing a quote by Ann Leckie about how these stories are inherently about slavery and about workers rights. And I'm gonna laugh at that and I'm gonna just keep using that quote even though I'm doing the exact opposite and I'm doing the exact pro-slavery shit that quote is criticizing.”

Martha Wells wants you to think that the idea of slaves wanting to rebel for their freedom is stupid and cliche and overwritten and cliche and stupid.

Literally.

> This is why I'm glad I'm not human. They come up with stuff like this. I said, "No, that's a human thing to do. Constructs aren't that stupid.”

~I'm a good slave, so I think that wanting to rebel against slavery is stupid. Only a stupid human would think of something so stupid,~ says the author, who's supposedly writing a book about how slavery is bad if you take her word for it, instead of reading what she's actually fucking written.

> What was I supposed to do? kill all humans because the ones in charge of constructs in the company were callous? Granted, I like the imaginary people on the entertainment feed way more than I liked real ones, but you can't have one without the other.

Literally saying that, “oh, um, slaves being upset by slavery is the exact same thing as saying you should commit genocide against all humans!” Because that's the only way Martha Wells will ever frame rebelling against slavery in this goddamn story because she's a fucking racist slavery apologist who doesn't actually give a shit about slavery or workers rights or any kind of bigotry whatsoever.

She will always say, "Oh, you want to rebel against slavery as a robot? Oh, you want to kill all humans? Don't be stupid."

Literally, that's that's the only way she can ever fucking do this shit, because she's racist and she just wants to say only — “the only good good slaves are happy to be slaves, and will never fight for their freedom. Um, because slaves rebelling for their freedom is just reverse racism and genocide.” That's the only options apparently, according to Martha Wells, because she's racist.

Uh

> The others started to stir, waking and sitting up, and he didn't ask me anything else.

And again, the “I like the real ones — I like the characters on my TV shows better than real people, but you can't have one without the other” because Martha Wells is claiming that Murderbot, despite being a goddamn cyborg, and all of the other robots in here, are just generative AI that's more better at pretending to be human, but can't create anything for themselves.

So literally her main argument in this series for the slaves not being allowed to rebel is that if they kill — if they rebel for their freedom, then that would mean they'd have to kill all the humans, and then there would never be any new TV shows, because the slaves are just fundamentally incapable of creating anything for themselves because they're just generative AI.

I'm not joking. She literally fucking says that in an interview, that of course she — somebody paid money to get deleted, because everybody realized “don't fucking tell your audience that your fucking robot

characters that we're supposed to like are literally just generative AI pretending to be a fucking person. What the fuck is wrong with you?” Just on a basic publicity level, what the fuck is wrong with you? So that interview has been deleted. It exists on the Wayback Machine and my bookshelf.

And then we have a little line break.

> By the time we got within range, it was a cloudless night with the ring glowing in the sky like a ribbon. I had already dropped speed, and we were moving slowly over the sparse trees decorating the hills at the edge of the habitat's plane. I had been waiting for the drones to ping me, which they would if this had worked, and EvilSurvey hadn't found them. When I felt that first cautious touch on my feed, I stopped the hopper and dropped it down below the tree line. I landed on a hillside, the hopper's pads extending to compensate.

We don't know what the fuck — We don't know what hopper pads are. There's no description here. We're just being told things that have no context.

> The humans were waiting, nervy and impatient, but no one spoke. You couldn't see anything from here except the next hill and a lot of tree trunks. All three drones were still active. I answered the pings, trying to keep my transmission as quick as possible. After a tense moment, the downloads started. I could tell from the timestamps that with nobody there to instruct them not to, the drones had recorded everything from the moment I deployed them to now. Even though the part we were most interested in would be near the beginning, that was a lot of data. I didn't want to stay here long enough to parse it myself. So, I pushed half of it into the feed for Gurathin. He didn't say anything. Just turned in his chair to lie back, close his eyes, and start reviewing it.

And it's like, okay, first of all, “I didn't want to stay here long enough to look through all of the things that I have downloaded”.

That's not how downloads works. It's not like — it's it's actively downloading this shit right now. Doesn't need to stay here to look at the download because it's a fucking download. It's not like you can only godamn watch it when you're in range. They're explicitly downloading it. So why are we saying “I didn't want to have to stay here long enough to go through all this data”? You're not going to stay there. You can literally just download it and leave immediately. There's no fucking reason for this. It's just bad writing. And the fact that this was kept in the final fucking product that people pay for, when this is supposed to be a professional author and a professional traditional publishing thing, that's just fucking bad. It's just ridiculous.

> I checked the drone stationed outside in the tree first, running its video at high speed until I found the moment where it had caught a good image of the EvilSurvey craft. It was a big

> hopper, a newer model than ours. nothing about it to cause anybody any pause.

It's a newer model than theirs, which we have no description of in anyway. So it being a newer model means literally nothing.

> It circled the habitat a few times, probably scanning, and then landed on our empty pad. They must know we were gone, with no aircraft on the — no aircraft on the pad and no answer in their comms. So, they didn't bother to pretend to be here to borrow some tools or exchange site data.

That's just a bad sentence.

> Five SecUnits piled out of the cargo pods.

Oh, we got to write their names down. I guess I don't have a notebook.

> Five SecUnits piled out of the cargo pods. All armed with big projectile weapons assigned to

> protect survey teams on planets with hazard — with hazardous fauna like this one. From the pattern on the armor chest plates, two were surviving — two were the surviving DeltFall units. They must have been put into their cubicles after we escaped the DeltFall habitat.

Even though they're supposed to be super disposable and too expensive, uh like, too cheap to repair. Um they all get magically repaired.

Uh I need another thumb... I have a list A. I don't know where my notebook where I wrote down all their code names went.

(to other person) Want to search for code name? Uh to see what I named the two DeltFall units that didn't die on my blog.

(to cat) Hello. Want to come say hi to the camera? You're adorable. You're adorable. She's looking at you for some reason. You don't need to claw the sofa. That's not cool. You're adorable.

(to other person) You need to search DeltFall or code name.

How is there code? Uh, is that the [?] maybe?

Okay. Uh, whichever are labeled for DeltFall that are alive, uh, they should be like the lowest on the list, I think, or in the middle maybe. Uh, none. They're still alive.

Of course not. Of course not. Because, you know, the book pretends that they died.

Last one say — it's not Fran.

Maybe.

Okay. So, according to my nicknaming, we're going in alphabetical order minus Murderbot.

Um, this is Celene and Damian who uh, we quote unquote “met” in the DeltFall habitat when they'd already been taken control of by the evil people.

And they are the two who left a very obvious trap, screaming at Murderbot at the top of their metaphorical lungs, "This is the most obvious trap in the world. Don't come this way. We're making the trap as obvious as possible so that you can avoid it." But Martha Wells decided to say they were just the stupidest SecUnits ever and so incompetent that they can't even set a trap properly, because Martha Wells is fucking racist and lives to demonize slaves and say that slaves — and just say that there's no such thing as solidarity or compassion between slaves. So if, if the slaves who are being forced to hurt you make it very clear that they don't want to hurt you, well, they're just stupid and incompetent, instead of just acknowledging that they're trying to help.

So yeah, Celene and Damian, who were left for dead by Murderbot, are apparently alive, even though it was like, implied that they were probably dead.

> They must have been put into their cubicles after we escaped the DeltFall habitat.

And it's like, that's not good of enough. That's not — That's not good enough. That's not good enough.

> Three were EvilSurvey.

Oh, we were on F, so we need — So we need names starting with G, H, and I for these ones.

Where did that go?

So yeah, we'll need name starts with G, H, and I for these guys.

> Three were EvilSurvey, which had a square gray logo. I focused in on it and sent it to the others. “GrayCris” Pin-Lee read aloud

And it's like okay so the whole thing with this shit is that we're shortening words to make these stupid little two-way whatever you want to call this shit. So preserv Preservation Aux is Preservation auxiliary. We don't know what GrayCris — it's g r a y c r i s. We don't know what GrayCris is short for. Gray is presumably short for gray the color. Cris? What the

fuck does that stand for? We don't know. It doesn't matter because it's badly fucking written. It just sounds cool, I guess.

> “Ever heard of it?” Ratthi said, and the others said no.

And again with the just dialogue before we have established that there's a back and forth going on.

> All five SecUnits would have the combat override modules installed

Because we just can't get enough of redundancies in — storytelling redundancies. Not in-universe good redundancies that it would be good for people to have. No, it's just bad writing and redundant storytelling for no good reason.

> They started toward the habitat and five humans, anonymous in their color-coded field suits, climbed out of the hopper and followed. They were all armed, too, with the hand weapons the company provided that were only

> supposed to be used for fauna related emergencies. I focused as far in on the humans as the image quality would allow. They spent a lot of time scanning and checking for traps, which made me even more glad I hadn't wasted time setting any.

It's just ridiculousness. And you notice how we just get told, "Oh, we didn't do these things” after it's already happened.

It's like we're just pretending that we had events happening. Uh we're just getting told about them afterward, because it's badly written. There's so many opportunities to actually show what they're doing, but nope, we're just going to skip over it and then pretend that we're getting told it afterward.

> But there was something about them that made me think I wasn't looking at professionals. They weren't soldiers anymore than I was.

Remember everybody, ~Murderbot is just a poor untrained uh helpless little underdog who has no idea

what it's doing. It's so helpless. It's not trained for this.~

Except for all of the things that it's clearly trained for and executes perfectly, and we just get told it watched that on TV once, even though it explicitly doesn't watch those kinds of TV shows, because it's badly written.

She wants, she wants to get your inherent sympathy by claiming that Murderbot is an underdog, but then also wants to make Murderbot hyper competent by not being an underdog. So we just do both at all times, and that's, that's exemplary of everything — every facet of everything in this can be just linked back to, um “we're, we got to pretend it's an underdog but actually it must be the most overpowered person in overpowered competent person ever. So it's not actually an underdog but we'll just keep pretending it is.”

> They weren't soldiers anymore than I was. Their SecUnits weren't combat units, just regular security rented from the company. That

> was a relief. At least I wasn't the only one who didn't know what I was doing.

We just keep getting told bullshit like that. And then Murderbot always does everything right because oh, “I saw it on TV, even though I don't watch TV shows like that” Um, and never fucking anything up in any way.

> Finally, I watched them enter the habitat, leaving two SecUnits outside to guard their hopper. I tagged the section, passed it to Mensah and the others to review, and then kept watching. Gurathin sat up suddenly and muttered a curse in a language I didn't know. I noted it to look up later on the big hoppers language center, then forgot about it when he said, "We have a problem."

And again, um, there's five people in this stupid little ship, because for some reason they decided the majority of the party needed to just go on this mission where you just get just within range and sit there and download from a distance and then leave again.

Uh the other three people are just sitting around not doing anything.

They have completed the downloads presumably. They can leave. They're just sitting there not doing anything. There was no reason for Mensah and Ratthi and Pin-Lee to fucking be here.

Like if anybody would, should have come along on this in the first place from a practical point of view, then it should literally have just been Murderbot and Gurathin because they are both augmented humans. So they can do this shit with the data to analyze it way faster than these fuckwads could.

So why the fuck are they there?

There's no goddamn reason for it besides bad writing. And they are the characters that Martha Wells likes the most. Even though she went through the fucking trouble of inventing the other three, other four, sorry. There's so goddamn many of them. It's evil.

Bharadwaj, Volescu, Arada, and Overse don't matter. They don't need to exist.

All of these literal eight fucking characters should have been reduced to two, at maximum three, but preferably two.

But instead, we got eight, and then most of them don't matter. And then we waste time on shit like this where the majority of the fucking people are coming along on a mission where only two of them can be useful, and the other ones aren't even doing anything helpful in the background.

They're just there for, I guess, emotional support, even though they left behind the people who need the emotional support because they were injured and traumatized.

> I put my part of the drone's download on pause and looked at the section he had just tagged. It was from the drone hidden in the hub. The visual was a blurred image of a curved support strut, but the audio was a human voice saying,

> "You knew we were coming, so I assume you have some way to watch us while we're here." The voice spoke standard lexicon with a flat accent. We've destroyed your beacon. Come to these coordinates." She spoke a set of longitude and latitude numbers that the little hopper helpfully mapped for me and a time stamp.

The hopper is just listening to every single thing you say and has enough intelligence to immediately put those goddamn coordinates into a map for you without anybody needing to tell it just just by reading off coordinates.

It's doing that by itself already. But you know, that's not a person, because robots are only people if they look like a human. Even though the whole premise of this is supposed to be robots are people too, even if they don't look like humans.

But that just means, um they're autistic coded, because autistic people aren't human apparently.

> “At this time and we can come to some arrangement. This doesn't have to end in violence. We're happy to pay you off or whatever you want. There was nothing else. Steps

That's just for me. Well, no, it's not for me because we haven't read this far yet. There's a weird little bubble. No, that's a printing error. There's a weird little bubble in the page. Probably won't show up. Oh, it does. You can see it. You can see it. Weird streaky bubble. Uh,

> There was nothing else. Steps fading until the door slid shut.

And um yeah, this is just the shit writing. Um, this is the bad guys for some — for no reason at all besides it's shit writing, so they must be like suicidally incompetent.

This is the bad guys telling the good guys where their home base is so that the good guys, who — it — without this information, would have just been left to

starve to death on this alien planet that they're trapped on.

Yeah, there's there's no excuse that can be made for this. It's just shit writing.

The the fucking bad guys have literally, for no goddamn reason except that this is the only way the fucking author can think of to have her protagonists do anything, the bad guys have just given the good guys the only way for them to survive in any way and get off of this planet, when it would have literally been simpler for them to just do nothing and let them starve to death.

They are the only people on this planet!

If they didn't tell them, "Hey, our secret base is right here. Come and get us whenever you want." They would have had no way of finding them.

That is the only way to get help. That's the only goddamn telephone on the planet to call 911 for. And they, the bad guys, just told them, "Hey, come to our

secret base. We got a telephone. That's the only way you can get help. We're we live right over here. You can't miss us." when they could have just simply not done that.

There's no reason for it. It's just because Martha Wells is bad at writing and and could not think of anything actually clever or smart for the protagonist to do for them to win against the bad guys. So, the bad guys just have to be suicidally incompetent and tell the, and let them win for no reason.

There's no earthly goddamn reason. There's not even any excuses to be made. There's not even an explanation and not even an *attempt* at it.

It's just the bad guys, who can win by doing nothing, just saying, "Hey, we live over here. Come steal our telephone and, and call the cops on us. Um yeah, we we know you would just starve to death if we didn't tell you this information. So, we're going to tell you where we live, exactly where we live, just to be nice because because you're the good guys. So, you have to win. Um, not through your own merits, though.

Don't be silly. No, we just got to be suicidal. Just come kill us. Uh, just come kill us because that's the only way the story can progress because the author is shit and can't think of anything for you to actually do yourselves to earn you a win.”

It literally just has to be handed to them. It's ridiculous.

> There was nothing else. Steps fading until the door slid shut. Gurathin, Pin-Lee, and Ratthi all started to speak at once. Mensah said, "Quiet." They shut up. “SecUnit, Your opinion." Fortunately, I had one now. Up to the point where we'd gotten the drone download, my opinion had been mostly, Oh, shit. I said, "They have nothing to lose."

No, Martha Wells, you can't — No, this is just her lying to us and hoping that we are not using our brains in any fucking way so that we'll just take this at face value and not not use our brains in any way.

“They have nothing to lose there.” No, they have everything to lose. They just for some forsaken reason told you exactly where they live despite them having the only telephone on the planet.

> I said “they have nothing to lose. If we come to this rendevous, they can kill us and stop worrying about us. If we don't, they have until the end of the project date to search for us.”

And Martha Wells is presenting these as the only two options that could possibly exist when anybody using their brain will realize no, actually, there's an option zero, before option one and two that we're told are the only options.

Option zero is just not do anything, because you will starve to death and probably get eaten by a xenomorph and they don't have to do anything.

They don't need to search for you, they have a secret base on an unexplored alien planet that you only have two wimpy little helicopters to explore, and you have

no access to extra fuel or anything that you can't fit inside those stupid little wimpy helicopters.

You're going to run out of fuel. You're going to run out of supplies. You're going to run out of food. You're going to run out of oxygen. They don't have to do anything. That's option zero.

But Martha Wells lies to you as the author. She's lying to you and telling you, actually, no. These are their only two options. They can tell you, they the bad guys can tell the heroes where they live and say, "Come steal our telephone and call the cops on us." Or they can um “sit around and look for us.”

No, When those are not the only options, but they're being presented as the only possible things that could be done.

Even though the most obvious one is also the one that gets them everything, because they literally can just hang out and let them starve. They, there there's no way they would have found the bad guys if the bad guys hadn't given them their exact fucking address.

> Gurathin was reviewing the landing video now. He said, "Another indication it isn't the company. They obviously don't want to chase us until the end of project date."

And it's like, you're not going to survive until then! You're on an alien planet, a supposedly extremely hostile alien planet with two wimpy helicopters you can't get fuel for. You have no phone to call anybody. You are going to run out of fuel. You're going to run out of food. They don't need to do, they don't need to chase you. You're just going to die!

It's ridiculous because it's badly written, but we're not supposed to think about how ridiculous this is.

And this is why Martha Wells says, "Stop criticizing my book for being unrealistic just because—“ There's just like, no, this is not “there's vampire sharks on the moon” level of ridiculous. This is ridiculous as in bad writing.

There's suspending your disbelief to accept, “Yeah, there's there's sharks. There's vampire sharks on the moon. I'll suspend my disbelief for that.”

(from offscreen) Engineered by communist Russia, no less.

Engineered by communist was it? Yeah. Engineered by communist Russia, no less. Literally, that's the plot of a movie. They're not vampire sharks. They're just genetically engineered sharks by communist Russia.

Um, what's that called? I just forgot. Shark Side of the Moon. It's good. It's genuinely a good movie. They're trying really hard. There's some bad parts, but like, it's just, it's just the plo, this is what happens in all the 1930s sci-fi unironically and it's just very funny to see it in movie form. Um, there's a there's a very funny part. I won't tell you, but uh you can just go watch that.

It's, It's ridiculous. But it's funny because you can, you can suspend your disbelief to accept genetically modified sharks who live on the moon who were

created by communist Russia. And um also they don't need oxygen masks because they're genetically engineered sharks. And also all you got to do to survive on the moon as a non-getically engineered human is just wear some nice a nice warm cap.

This is, this is shit you can suspend your disbelief for if that's the whole premise of the movie, which is what Shark Side of the Moon is.

I'm just adding in vampire sharks in particular on the moon to make it even more absurd because yes, I could I could watch a movie where there are vampire sharks on the moon and I can accept that.

But again, what I draw the line at, what I cannot suspend my disbelief for is the characters that we are told are good people who know their friend is deathly allergic and has a phobia of pineapples, throwing that friend a pineapple themed, um, birthday party to be nice, even though they know they're deathly allergic and also have a phobia.

This isn't “there's vampire sharks on the moon. Suspend your disbelief.” Doesn't make sense, of course, it doesn't make sense that there's vampire sharks on the moon.

It also doesn't make sense for a lot of things going on in *here*, but we don't criticize those things, because that's what suspension of disbelief is for.

“This is the my my beloved friends who love and care about me and have known me my whole life have thrown me a pineapple themed birthday party even though I am deathly allergic to pineapples and have a phobia of them. And the sight of them alone drives me into a panic.”

Um, this is that, this is that, because the bad guys, they, they to win, they don't have to do anything.

It's not even that they're impatient for some reason because of a flaw of — it's not it's not a flaw of the villains.

It's not a character point for one of the villains that they're super goddamn impatient and or paranoid so that they push the matter and end up destroying themselves and ruining their own plan because of their impatience / paranoia. Not even that.

It's just the bad guys being suicidally incompetent for no other reason than that's the only way the author could think to pro, to progress the story.

Even though it doesn't make sense, you know, like that before she lit— Martha Wells literally broke the fourth wall to yell at the audience to stop complaining that the character's actions don't make sense because they genuinely didn't make sense.

They are— They had already figured out that people were going to hunt them down, but then we're still supposed to pretend that they don't want to leave their known location. Um, and then we just get the fourth wall broken to yell at us to to stop complaining that it doesn't make sense, because apparently one of the editors or better readers like, "Hey, this really doesn't make sense if these are supposed to be like

competent characters, which you keep telling us they are, so why would they be doing this?"

And then she literally broke the fourth wall to yell at us to stop complaining.

Anyways, um,

> Gurathin was reviewing the landing video. He said, "Another indication it isn't the company. They obviously don't want to chase us until the end of project date." I said, "I told you it wasn't the company." Mensah interrupted Gurathin before he could respond. “They think we know why they're here, why they're doing this.” “They're wrong,” Ratthi said, frustrated. Mensah's brow furrowed as she picked apart the problem for the other humans. “But why do they think that? It must be because they know we want we went to one of the unmapped regions. That means the data we collected must have the answer.” Pin-Lee nodded. “So the others may know by now.” “It gives us

> leverage,” Mensah said thoughtfully. “But what can we do with it? “And then I had a great idea.

And that's the end of chapter six— Oh, look at that.

Look at that.

Chapter 7 graces us with yet another entirely blank fucking page just to pad out the goddamn page count because this is a fucking scam.

It has no business— There's literally, there's literally an entire blank page to make this book seem longer than it is.

And even with all this fucking effort, it's only a centimeter thick after they put this much goddamn effort into lying about how long it is.

And this is the best. this is as big as they could stretch it out with this egregious shit.

They're charging $16 plus tax plus shipping for this. And they're inserting entire fucking blank pages

between chapters along with having gigantic margins at the top and bottom of each page.

My god, this just ridiculous.

But anyways, I have to go eat some fucking food now. So, this will be the end of this video.

We're going to be on chapter seven next, and its beautiful blank page that is ~totally not a scam, guys. It's totally normal to insert random blank pages at random spots in your book to make it seem longer.~

Anyways, um yeah, just use your own critical thinking skills.

And um this isn't comment bait. I genuinely just can't think of names. Give me names that start with G, H, and I for the, the Gray, SecUnits slaves.

So, because they have they all have to get nicknames so we can refer to them by a name to remember them by because the goddamn book doesn't give a shit

about enslaved people to the point we don't even get like basic designations for them.

All right, byebye.

11

November 6th, 2025. We're going to continue read live reading the Murderbot Diaries with commentary.

For the record, it's 1:32 p.m. and I'm sleepy. I hate daylight savings. It should have been abolished generations ago. It's fucking ridiculous.

Anyways, we're on chapter seven, which is supposedly page 123 because these goddamn fucking liars are goddamn scammers. This is supposedly page 121 over here, where the chapter ends. And then they inserted an entire blank page for no reason, that they are counting as page 122, because they're just that desperate to fucking, to to do this shit and pretend that this book is, this story is so much longer than it is.

So they literally insert an entire whole entire blank page that they count as part of the page count so that they can claim that this book has, so that they can claim this story is 152 pages long.

But along with the blank pages along with the disgustingly massive margins at the bottom of every page, they're also including the copyright page at the start as part of the story. So that the first page of the story is — what they are calling page nine, just as a refresher course for everybody, because I know there are some people watching these completely out of order. I don't know if it's on purpose or just because finding the playlist is difficult, which is understandable because YouTube's terrible.

Yeah, they're, they're, they're doing everything possible, including again, here's another blank page here at the back of the book.

And then we're saying that this little blurb about the author that they stretched out to make it cover two pages when this could have just been one. There's no, like, look at this disgustingly huge margin up here. Look how much space they're putting between that shitty little picture and all of the text.

There's no reason they could not have fit that onto this page here. You'll have to get that. No, it shouldn't

be able to record all the way over there. There's no reason that this could not have been one page.

And the only reason it isn't is because it's a fucking scam.

So, I have anything to drink blah blah blah. Let me pause.

Anyways, um this, like, just this page alone is just emblematic of the scam that this is, because they're counting the blurb about the author, that they shoved onto two pages desperately, and preceded by a blank page. They're counting that as page numbers that they're telling people is how long the story is.

And then, and then they have how many blank pages at the back? I, we I we did this at the start. We're doing it again.

One, two, three, four blank pages at the back of the book, plus all the blank pages thrown into the middle of the book, plus all the blank pages at the start of the book, and all of the margins.

And look, another one. This book is a fucking scam.

Also, again, before I actually start reading, I'm so goddamn sick of this fandom lying to everybody, because everybody in this fandom loves to wax poetic about how “poor tragic Murderbot. It's so traumatized and soooo scared of other slaves. We should feel bad for it cuz it's just fallen for the propaganda and it's so traumatized that it that it's scared of other slaves!!!”

And that's all they say that's going on. They just say that Murderbot is “distrustful of other slaves and is scared of them because it fell for the propaganda.”

(frowning at the book) There's a section in this book, you can see it, where it looks like there's something stuck in there, but I don't think there is. Unless that's where the bookmark was. No, that's past it.

Um, and then people will wax poetic about “poor Murderbot. It's falling for the propaganda that makes it scared of other slaves :(”

And then that's all they, that's all they'll acknowledge.

They don't acknowledge the part where Murderbot is murdering and torturing other slaves maliciously out of spite and going out of his way to do so.

They don't acknowledge that because, you know, acknowledging the fact that the beloved protagonist, that the author Martha Wells wants us to think is a good person, and is doing the right thing, acknowledging that Martha Wells wants us to be okay with this character murdering other slaves as a fucking serial killer—

—And if you were hoping that ends in this book, no, it's literally continuing up to the newest goddamn book in the series and we have like 12 or 13 books in this series now, and it's still continuing because it's not, it— Murderbot isn't murdering other slaves to show that Murderbot is a bad person.

It's because that's what Martha Wells thinks is cool and she's training the fandom to agree with her that it's cool and awesome and totally fine to murder and

torture slaves when you have every power possible to rescue them instead of doing that. But no, we're not going to do that. No.

So, yeah. If if you're in this fandom and you try to say, "Oh, well," just wax poetic about how “Murderbot just doesn't trust other slaves”, but you refuse to just admit to anybody, including yourself, that it's not simply distrustful, it's actively murdering them, you're failing media analysis 101.

You are literally refusing to acknowledge one of the most basic facts of the series because you don't want — because you don't like what it says about the series. So, you're lying to yourself, you are lying to everybody reading your posts.

You are literally contributing to the godamn slavery apologism by glossing over the fact that the author wants us to be okay with this “beloved cinnamon roll protagonist who only pretends to be mean but has a heart of gold”, glossing over the fact that it's a goddamn serial killer that we're supposed to be fine with and cheer on.

Anyways, yeah. Um, next person who tries to wax poetic about, "Oh, poor little murderbot. It's just so traumatized. It's that's what makes it scared of the other slaves” with, while refusing to acknowledge the fact that it's murdering other slaves has been from the start, going out of its way, so far out of its way to murder other slaves—

I'm just going to start fucking telling people “you are literally goddamn lying about this series. Murderbot is a fucking serial killer. It is fucking murdering people. It is murdering slaves. It's going out of its way to do so. And the author wants us to be okay with this. And you are okay with it. Or at least on some level, you know it's bad, which is why you're refusing to admit it and acknowledge that this is a basic goddamn fact. If you can't acknowledge this fact about the goddamn series that has been going on in every single fucking story, then you have no business pretending to wax poetic and do analysis. You're not analyzing shit. You are just lying and regurgitating the slavery apologism by refusing to even admit how

blatant it is so that you can pretend it doesn't exist at all.”

Anyways, we're on chapter 7 which is preceded by that completely blank page because this is a fucking scam, because Tor publishing are fucking scammers, and the poor person who bought this full price? Sorry for you wasting your money, but at least I got it from Goodwill.

Anyways, we're on chapter seven now. This is the second to last chapter in the whole goddamn series.

And uh these ~beloved slave owner characters who are so nice. They're pure cinnamon rolls~ they've not done a single kind thing for Murderbot this whole entire time.

In fact, they are continuing to harass it and torment it and manipulate it.

Again, I mentioned this in the last video, but they like, three separate times now, they've had and every single one of them is giving permission for this to

happen, especially Mensah, she's a fucking horrible person

Gurathin is doing “loyalty tests” on Murderbot, even though he mind-raped Murderbot so, he knows every single one of Murderbot's motivations. He knows that Murderbot is not being controlled by any ~outside compulsions~ or whatever.

He knows that Murderbot is unnaturally devoted to protecting them and has nothing nothing towards them except good intentions and the desire to protect them, including killing itself to protect them.

And yet, after mind-raping Murderbot, so he knows this, he then still continues to insist upon forcing Murderbot into the “loyalty test” to prove that Murderbot isn't going to actually secretly kill them.

And then everybody else just stands around and lets this happen, because they're all literal slave owners who are still treating this slave that they've enslaved like a goddamn slave.

They know for a fact that Murderbot wants to help them and protect them, because it's been brainwashed into thinking it has no value outside of doing that, and yet, they're still tormenting it literally just for fun.

Because Gurathin knows for a fact that Murderbot is loyal and wants to protect them.

And yet three times now, and it'll probably continue, he, he's insisting on pretending he doesn't actually know that, just so he can ask Murderbot invasive questions and stare at it in a way he knows is triggering and so much more.

And then every — all of the other slave owners are just 100% fine with this.

Like when Gurathin says, "I'm coming along with you." Mensah did not need to say to Murderbot, to pretend that the slave actually has a choice in the matter when it doesn't—

Because Gurathin didn't ask, "Can I come with you?" He marched up and said, as one of Murderbot's active slave owners that Murderbot has to follow the orders of beyond the governor module, deep in its “core programming”, in Martha Wells's own words, he said, "I am coming with you."

That wasn't a question. That was a fucking order. Murderbot doesn't actually get to say, "No, actually, you can't come with me, no, fuck you.”

And Mensah, who rented out this fucking slave in the first place, and knows how all of this shit works, knows that it doesn't *actually* get to say that.

But then she pretends that it does.

So then Gurathin just comes along for literally no other purpose but to continue tormenting Murderbot with “loyalty tests” even though he knows for a fact that it is loyal to them because it has no other option and is brainwashed.

And then this is all presented as totally good and reasonable, and we are “supposed to think that Gurathin is an asshole”, um, but like, not really, because none of the other characters that we're supposed to think are better people than him by a slight level?

None of them are actually upset with him.

None of them stop him from doing this.

None of them like, punish him in any fucking way.

Like, just, you know, giving him the cold shoulder until he fucking apologizes.

Nothing.

Nothing.

Nothing at all.

Even though we're supposed to believe that they're “good people who care about slaves”.

So, um, for some goddamn reason, five of the four (nine) fucking characters are all going on this completely useless mission that only needed one or two people at max.

And it's just because there's too many characters, and again, for anybody who didn't notice, the reason there's eight fucking human “human”, “real humans” protagonists to memorize in this book is literally just so that Martha Wells could tokenize as many ethnic sounding names as possible, without actually making them characters who matter.

You'll notice that they all have different ethnic sounding names, and yet, there's no description, which gives everybody — all of the other white supremacists in the audience, it gives them permission to whitewash them and pretend that “Gurathin” is *definitely* the name of an Aryan ideal white man, blond-haired, blue-eyed, all the sh— all like the whole fucking shebang of literally the Aryan ideal.

And Martha Wells is fine with this, because she's literally cheering and screaming from the rooftops in praise for Apple TV whitewashing her Black non-binary protagonist.

The reason we have to memorize the names Gurathin, Pin-Lee, Ratthi, Arada, Mensah, Overse, Volescu, and Bharadwaj, is so that she can pretend that this book is diverse and inclusive.

Except 90% of those don't matter. They're not actual characters. Bharadwaj doesn't fucking exist as a goddamn character. She doesn't get to be a fucking character. She just gets injured and then is shoved off screen, doesn't fucking do anything.

And then abruptly in like book five or six, it's mentioned that she's somehow acting as Murderbot's therapist, even though she's not a therapist.

And it's just, it's, it's, it's fucking ridiculous.

The only reason there are this many characters is so that Martha Wells can tokenize people of color.

Because there's a difference between tokenizing people of color and actually having an actually inclusive and genuinely diverse and not just white— make white people cast of characters

What this is doing is tokenization because— what — Tell me something about Volescu. He never— He never returns in the series ever again. We have no description of what he looks like.

(from offscreen) He doesn't matter.

Yeah, exactly. He doesn't matter. He's not a real fucking character. He's just another name so that people can go, "Oh, but that name doesn't sound like a white person's name. That means this author is good."

But then she never actually puts in any of the effort to make them more than literally just names, not even with descriptions.

And then like, they're still being put into caricature— Like, Ratthi is just comic relief. He doesn't do

anything besides be the goofy comic relief. So he's literally just the comic relief ambiguously brown guy, because we don't have a description of Ratthi at all either. It's just implied by his name that he's a brown man. But then that's not actually described in the book.

So that, again, just exactly like with Murderbot, the literal fucking Black non-binary protagonist, Martha Wells has the plausible deniability where people will say, "Oh, she said the character's Black. She said the character is Non-binary." Except she didn't even say that shit, “Um, so that means it's progressive. That means she's a good author, right? She cares about people that are not white supremacists?”

Until she starts cheering on Apple TV for casting the whitest white man to play the Black non-binary character. It's tokenization. This isn't representation. This is tokenization.

And if you can't fucking tell the difference, I don't know what to fucking tell you. Besides, you need to read books by people who actually give a single shit

about minorities instead of literally just tokenizing us to fill their wallet.

Go read books by actual people of color and actual allies to people of color who genuinely give a shit about them.

Stop reading shit by Martha Wells and people like her who literally just tokenize people of color to pretend on a very bare minimum surface level to be anti-racist and “not a racist” only to literally sell out and cheer on whitewashing from the rooftops at the very first fucking white man to throw money at them.

Martha Wells doesn't give a fuck about people of color. She doesn't give a fuck about non-binary people. She doesn't give a fuck about trans people. She doesn't give a fuck about aroace people at all.

Again, because uh, some — a few more people are coming to this realization, unfortunately, a bit too late. Um that Murderbot is not actually meant to represent aroace people who are sex and romance repulsed, that's just being thrown in there to tokenize

us, again, just to give the illusion of giving a fuck about other people.

But then we — as the series goes on, every other goddamn character in the series who we're supposed to like and agree with and are presented as completely correct, just keep insisting that the relationship between the two characters must be romantic and sexual and at at the very least must be romantic.

And then they never receive any pushback for this, because Martha Wells is actively courting and encouraging all of the other allos in the audience to erase the aroace representation, such as it is.

Because you can have other characters be bigots towards aroace people. But if that's, if the intention is that “this character is being a fucking bigot” instead of “yes, this character is correct. The other character is just in denial about their feelings,” then you would give them pushback. There would be narrative pushback.

But we don't get that.

Martha Wells is literally giving all of the other allos in her fucking audience permission to erase all of the aroace characters’ aroaceness to just insist that they must be allo and just in denial about it, because she's a shit writer and a shit person.

Anyways, uh chapter 7, I say 20 minutes into the video.

> So, at the appointed time the next day, Mensah and I were flying toward the rendezvous point.

Oh, yeah. Again, just rehash. The villains would have won except that Martha Wells couldn't see any way for the protagonist to do anything of their own skill, of their own volition, not even just basic good luck where they happen to be in the right place at the right time.

The villains literally sabotage themselves to death for no reason.

It's just shit writing.

It's not even a characterization flaw of the villains.

As I said yesterday, you could have it be, you could have their actions that make no fucking sense, make sense with characterization, but we don't get characterization for these villains.

They're just generic Evil For The Sake Of Being Evil evil guys.

No depth, no characterization, nothing that makes any goddamn sense, because this is not a deep story. This is not a meaningful story.

It's just shitty, light-hearted, shallow garbage that exists purely to say, “wouldn't it be so cool if slaves killed themselves to protect their masters? I bet if I were a slave owner, my slaves would love me so much that they would kill themselves to protect me.”

That's that's the premise of this fucking entire goddamn story. As I've said multiple times over this.

Anyways, let's let's fucking go.

> So, at the appointed time the next day, Mensah and I were flying toward the rendezvous point.

The rendezvous point that they would never have found if the villains didn't literally tell them for no reason except that Martha Wells is a shitty fucking writer and can't actually manage to make her characters genuinely competent, so that the only way they can fucking survive and quote unquote “win” is by making the villains even more incompetent than these people are, and then not even editing it later to actually decent story line.

Like it's just fucking ridiculous.

> Gurathin and Pin-Lee had taken one of my drones and rebuilt it with a limited scanning attachment.

And then in parenthesis:

(limited because the drone was so was too small for most of the components a longer and wider range scanner would need.)

End parenthesis.

Last night I had sent it into the upper atmosphere to give us a view of the site.

Why is this— whatever! And again, you'll notice that the tech—

(from offscreen) microscopic.

Yeah, they are. Because later we get told, at some point, that a drone is really big because it's like almost a centimeter. This is ridiculous.

Go into the upper— Yeah, this fucking drone—

You notice again how the technology can do anything that the plot requires?? So all of a sudden these little tiny drones can go into the upper atmosphere.

(from offscreen) Do you have your ruler there?

um somewhere

(from offscreen) pick up your copy of Yeah, pick up pick up a ruler or something or your copy of all systems, right? Which is less than a centimeter.

Yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah. This is— so, at some point later in the series, we get told that, “oh, that piece of that that piece of technology is really big. It's almost a centimeter!”

This book is about slightly less than a centimeter thick.

So later in the series, we claim that technology that is this big is “really big and bulky” and then it's just, it's it's just there to be ridiculous and make it seem high-tech and it's just it's absurd.

Kind of like saying abruptly that tree frogs are actually people who can talk and speak the same language that you do. And you've known they were

people the whole time. You just decided to keep continuously referring to them as animals, which now retroactively implies that your fucking protagonists have been killing, murdering, and eating people this whole goddamn time, if tree frogs are suddenly abruptly like five or six books into the series going to be revealed to have been people the whole fucking time!

That doesn't make any goddamn—that little tangent doesn't make any fucking sense to anybody who's only read this shit. You haven't read The Books of the Raksura.

Anyways, um so the t the technology in here— just, it's just magic. It's a bad magic system. It can do whatever the plot requires as soon as the plot requires.

There was no setup that these drones could go into the upper atmosphere ever before.

Now, and again, notice it's saying *upper atmosphere*, not just into the sky. We knew they

could fly, but going into the upper atmosphere, that's a completely different kind of fucking thing. That's a completely separate ability from the generic ability to fly around like a little toy ro— like super advanced remote control helicopter, or you know, drones cuz we have those now.

This is, this is just ridiculous.

And it's like and again we're just giving all of the protagonists—

(to a cat) What are you— Why are you poking me? Why are you poking me?

There was no hint that these drones were able to go into the upper atmosphere until they suddenly have that goddamn ability.

And there's no point! And what, what's the payoff for this contradictory statement that was never set up and is just making — just doing all the bullshit? There's no payoff besides uh

> last night I had sent it into the upper atmosphere to give us a view of the site. The location was near their survey base which was about only 2 kilos away.

And again, we're, we're again using the word “kilo” to mean distance. When that, when saying it, kilo usually refers to weight.

And again, as my twin pointed out, you could just say klick, because that means a kilometer and it's military speak, a thing that Murderbot would presumably be told to speak in.

But no, instead of anything logical, we're just going to refer to distance as “a kilo” just to cause confusion for no goddamn reason.

Imagine if I just started saying, "Oh, their their base was probably only two pounds away." The money, the fucking measurement of weight, their their “their thing was 2 ounces away”

Why are we saying kilos?

Like, and again, I know there's going to be people watching these videos who have never written a goddamn thing in their lives besides a shitty essay for English class that they didn't even pay attention to, and they're going to say, "Oh, well, you're just nitpicking!”

I'm a fucking writer. Every goddamn writer worth their salt knows that every — I don't, I shouldn't even have to explain this, but I do have to, because there's so much anti-intellectualism running rampant in every fandom and especially in this one.

Every word you choose is chosen on purpose. Writers will sometimes sit there for 15 minutes literally just deciding whether to change one word into something else.

And just using the word kilos, uh, “the location was near their survey base, which was only about 2 kilos away.” That's an absurd fucking sentence. Because by using the word kilo to mean kilometer, even though it is almost always used, shortened that way to mean weight as in a kilogram, you are causing confusion for

no fucking reason. A thing that you should want to avoid.

There is never a good reason to try to confuse your audience like this. It's just bad writing. And it's — and it's a form of writing that Martha Wells loves, where she seems to be under the impression, along with Steven Moffat and probably many other bad fucking writers, that “if your audience is confused that means you're a clever writer”.

And it's no. No! There's a difference between “the audience is confused because there's an actual mystery and there's many hints and they're trying to figure it out” and “the audience is confused because you're bad at writing and what you're writing doesn't make fucking sense.”

It does not fucking make sense to casually be throwing around the word kilo to mean distance without setting that up beforehand as part of this goddamn contemporary language.

I read, what the fuck was that called? I read a bunch of books all related to BLIT — B L I T T by David something or other or maybe something or other David. Sorry, dude. I forgot your name.

But you can read those for free online. Let me try to remember the name of this fucking book....

It's not called Black Ice. That's a thing in the book. It's like... one word. Stepping razor.... what's the...oh my gosh I don't remember what the name of this book is, but that book, it's a futuristic sci-fi cyberpunk dystopia. It's, it was written 90s? 80s was written back then.

It uses a lot of futuristic slang and one of the things they do is they *do* use kilo to refer to distance, but the thing that makes that different from this, is that all of that slang— There's a bunch of slang. All of that was set up as part of that fucking world building. It's part of the characterization of our protagonists. It's part of the world they live in. It's set up.

We go, we know just from going into that series and just from the very start immersing ourselves in it that they use words differently than we do. Black Ice. It, they literally have a fucking cybernetic— what's— cyberspace. It's a thing about cyberspace.

It's a cyberpunk dystopia where cyberspace is a whole fucking thing.

Black ice refers to a form of computer virus that you can come across in cyberspace that will fucking fry your brain. A thing that's extremely unusual because there's safeguards against that. But this it's called black ice. you can't fucking see through it and it will literally fucking kill you, and that's not normal.

There'—s there and that's just one example of the things, there's so much slang includ— and the, the usage of “kilo” to refer to distance in *that* is very purposeful as slang, because they are living in a completely different world than we are. They use words differently. So much is going on in there with the language.

That is not what is happening here.

This is written like it's just somebody on fucking Tumblr or Reddit in this day and age just chatting casually.

There is no intentionality about the way things are said and spoken in here outside — ignoring the racist propaganda, we're just talking about characterization right now.

This is not this is not written intentionally to convey things with the language. It's just casual as fuck modernd ay English. Extremely casual modern day English. Extremely familiar, informal modern day English, which is why everybody's like, "Oh, Murderbot's the most human character I've seen in forever."

And it's like, yeah, it's because it a is a literal cyborg. It's not actually a fucking robot. She just lied about that on purpose to make people not grasp that she's *literally asking you to agree with dehumanizing

Black disabled people who were literally mutilated to justify enslaving them*.

It's it's written like any other generic modern-day protagonist who speaks informally like I'm talking right now.

Me talking like this? The characters in this book wouldn't think it's weird at all, because there's nothing intentional about how they speak versus how *we* speak to show what kind of a different world they're fucking living in.

And then you compare that with the book whose name I still haven't remembered.

There's a character her well her name's Molly. Well, her name's not Molly, that's a fake name. We don't know what her real name is. She's also called Steppin Razor. I forget the name the main character's name. It starts with an…my dyslexia/synesthesia like it's either a C or an S. Uh he doesn't — his name doesn't get said very often.

Um I don't know what the fuck it's called and I can't check because my phone has the library app and I can't open this while I'm doing a video.

But anyways, what I'm trying to fucking say here is that you *can* use the word “kilo” as shorthand for “kilometer” without causing confusion. But that requires you to set up the goddamn world so that readers start to expect to have to think of words that we are familiar with being used in new ways consistently, so that we can tell, okay, so that means something different, I have to wait until they explain what that means or until I see the fucking context for what that means.

And that is done effortlessly in *there*. It makes sense that they would use the word kilo as shorthand for kilometer instead of weight.

It doesn't fucking make sense in here. It's just badly written because there's a goddamn difference with writing — with *good writing*, you can get away with almost anything.

Almost anything you fucking want, you can get away with as long as you properly fucking set it up and build it in.

That's not happening here.

And if you think, "Oh, well, you're just going on and on about a single stupid word. You're just overthinking things." This is called basic fucking media analysis. And if you don't grasp that every word an author fucking puts in that goddamn first draft, let alone second draft, and then keeps for the supposed final fucking product that people are paying for, you don't understand how writing works. You don't understand how media analysis works. You are literally just an anti-intellectualist.

Like, you actually have to use your brain and think about the stories that you read.

And if you don't want to do that, then you can shut the fuck up and go away and leave alone the people who are actually engaging with critical thinking skills and basic media analysis and actually thinking about

things instead of just mindlessly consuming whatever fucking racist propaganda garbage gets slopped in front of you.

Use your fucking brain.

Go write a goddamn story and actually take care with what you write and you will notice, yeah, every single word you're picking does in fact matter.

Anyways, let's continue reading.

> The location was near their survey base.

And again, I have to stop there because you can't say this shit. ~The location was near their survey base~ We don't know where their survey base is!

Martha Wells does this all the goddamn time, and I've seen other people mention it in their reviews, where we don't know what the fuck Ratthi looks like.

We don't know what Amena looks like.

We just randomly will get told that like Amena is shorter than Ratthi.

But we've never gotten so much as a hint of how tall or short Ratthi is.

So Ratthi could be 4t tall and Amena could be 3t tall for all we fucking know.

For all we fucking know. Ratthi could be 12 feet tall and Amena is 11 feet tall. We don't fucking know!

We just get these “comparative descriptions”, but the character that the new character’s being compared to has *literally never gotten a description*.

So this “comparison” is completely fucking meaningless.

~Amena's skin was lighter than Ratthi's but darker than Blanks.~

Ratthi's skin has never been described!

Other character whose skin tone is being compared has never been described!

It's bad writing! This isn't a writing style! This is just Martha Wells being bad at writing and being racist because, again, all of this bullshit, she doesn't want to *actually* tell you what color these characters skin tones are!

She doesn't actually want to describe them and describe their features, because that would remove the plausible deniability that she needs if she wants to be able to scream and cheer from the rooftops how amazing it is for her Black non-barinary protagonist to be played by a cis blondhaired blue-eyed white man.

So yeah, we're being told that this location is “near their survey base”, a thing— nobody knows where that is, because you had no idea where they were until they told you for no godamn reason.

> The location was near their

And just me saying that, I could make up so many good fucking reasons for the villains to have done that, including, you know, maybe, just fucking maybe, they are after Murderbot in particular, and the rest of this is like a bonus thing?

Maybe Murderbot's broken fucking governor module is broken for a goddamn reason that has nothing to do with somebody wanting to free a slave. Maybe there are extreme corporate secrets that were put onto that fucking governor module, which is why it doesn't perform its intended function anymore.

Maybe there's a whole goddamn conspiracy where these people are trying to track down one particular fucking SecUnit so that they can extract the governor module and get whatever was stored on there.

I just made that up in the last 5 seconds out of nowhere.

Because here's the thing, again, as I said, with good writing, you can get away with anything.

You can have space vampire sharks on the fucking moon, genetically engineered in Soviet Russia. Not that I'm saying that movie is well written, but you could do that.

This isn't doing anything well. This is just so many ridiculous things upon ridiculous things.

Again, if here's just a basic writing tip: If you are pretending that your characters are competent and intelligent and tactical and know how to strategize and know what they're doing, you need to actually show that.

If the only way that you can think to have your heroes “win” the story is to make the, the, the villains like, suicidally incompetent and self-destructive for no reason, and that's the only way you can see your protagonist winning?

You need to write better protagonist because you're shit at fucking writing.

Fix your plot.

Like, you literally need to fix you need to start the fuck over because there are situations where yes, it would be a good thing for the only, the literal only way the heroes can win is if the villain fucks up irredeemably and just fucks everything over for themselves.

Like, you know if the protagonists were say children that like are literally helpless in this situation and they only survive through fucking chance, because I don't know somebody like, fucked something up and tripped into a goddamn wire.

And, like, you would have to write that really well for it to be convincing and believable, but you could do it.

But we're not doing that. And you shouldn't be relying on stupid contrivances.

And again, with good writing, you can get away with anything. With good writing, you could get away with literally “the plot is solved because somebody fucking tripped and pushed the big red button that releases all the prisoners.”

You would have to have a lot of fucking setup to make that an outcome that is acceptable in the reality that you have fucking written.

This is ridiculous.

The location was near their survey base.

A thing that doesn't tell us anything, because we never knew where their survey base was. We had not even a goddamn hint.

We've barely even had time to grasp the fact that these fuckers have been ~stranded~ on an alien planet, un-mapped, un-charted, un-everything alien planet ~without any hope of escape~.

Because before that even has time to sink in for anybody, they've already been told the exact location of the only phone so that they can go there and kick the bad guys and get off anyways.

There's no reason for this to have been set on a goddamn uncharted unexplored alien planet. This

could just be happening in a fucking shopping mall because the stakes — the stakes of being — the possibility of being trapped here. that's such a non-existent threat that we literally are just skipping right over it.

We don't spend several days with all of the people, including Murderbot, trapped in the little stupid helicopters. Murderbot, in particular, if we're supposed to pretend that this story takes slavery seriously, slowly losing its mind from the stress of being trapped in close quarters with slave owners who are manipulating it and forcing it to make them always be allowed to see its face against its will, and you know, doing “loyalty checks” on it, loyalty tests even though they mind-raped it so they know it's loyal, literally just to be cruel.

We don't we didn't spend any time any at all examining what exactly would happen to these people and showing how horrible it would be to be trapped on this planet and show us that this is a real threat and that their supplies are already running out way

faster than they thought, because here's a goddamn concept:

Maybe they were lied to about how many supplies were contained in each of those fucking boxes?

Because you know that whole sabotage, but it's not really sabotage because it clearly doesn't actually want to kill them, but if we pretend that they were under any actual threat, we could have said that those boxes that those crates and shit of supplies, they scanned them: It said they were totally full.

And then they open them and there's just a bunch of really heavy equivalent of space packing peanuts just in there to take up space.

But the supplies are actually the majority, the *minority* of the weight in there.

Because you know, if we keep saying that the company is cheap and evil and scammy, why don't we show that?

It's because it's badly written and Martha Wells is shit at writing.

> Anyways, the location was near their survey base, which was about only about 2 kilos away, a habitat similar to DeltFall’s.

Period. That's one sentence. That— (to person offscreen) I hear you laughing.

(from offscreen) I'm just imagining every time you say kilos away, just say pounds away. I

Yeah, ~it was only two pounds away. It was only 2 ounces away.~

> By the size of their habitat and the number of SecUnits

Oh, yeah. I didn't find that. I did not find my notebook that where I had started keeping track. We still need names for these guys. We need…whatever. I'll write it again after I do this. When I'm writing the transcripts for these—

You'll have to wait for the transcripts because my computer will not reliably stay on. It turns on now. It won't stay on. If I move it at all, it turns itself off. So, I can't really easily edit the transcripts because YouTube will not let me download it onto my phone. It doesn't even give me the option to look at the subtitle files, so that I can't download them, so that I can't edit it so that it's properly done and all that crap.

> By the size of their habitat and the number of SecUnits

And again, just a reminder, anytime “a SecUnit” is used, you need to be replacing that mentally with “meat shield slave”. Enslaved meat shield, human shield.

> Including the one Mensah had taken out with a mining drill

And that's supposed to be funny. Again, Mensah, a slave owner, murdered a slave.

We're supposed to think that's cool and heroic and funny.

> They had between 30 and 40 team members. They were obviously very confident, but then they'd had access to our hub, and they knew they were dealing with a small group of scientists and researchers and one messed up secondhand SecUnit.

And you know, you can't say shit like that, because that is implying that most other SecUnits are not secondhand.

That's implying many things that and none of them are true.

None of that ever comes up again.

It's not — It's just such bad fucking writing, pretending to be more deep than it is. And you couldn't even fill a fucking puddle with this.

> I just hope they didn't realize how messed up I actually was.
> When the hopper picked up the first blip of a scanner contact Mensah hit the comm immediately. “GrayCris, be advised that my party has secured evidence of your activities on this planet and hidden it in various places where it will transmit to the pickup ship whenever it arrives.” She let that sink in for 3 seconds, then added, "You know we found the missing map sections." There was a long pause. I was slowing us down, scanning for incoming weapons, even though the chances were good they didn't have any.

Why would the chances be good that they don't have any weapons?

That is another absurd thing to just fucking say as though it's fact when they're, what??? That doesn't — that actively doesn't make sense, and not in the way that vampire sharks on the moon doesn't make sense. That doesn't make sense!

So, you're telling me that there's — it, it makes sense that the people who are here *literally just for the purpose of murdering everybody else*, you're going to pretend to me that it's it ~just makes sense~, just makes sense that they don't have any weapons with which to shoot down helicopters?

Even though they have enough money to have, if you missed it, they bribed the company to let them come here and murder everybody. They bribed the company to let them come here in secret.

They have all of the resources to just go around murdering everybody else, but we're supposed to just pretend, based on nothing but Martha Wells telling us abruptly out of nowhere, with no evidence to back it up, that “oh yeah, they probably can't hurt our helicopters in any way.” Um, based on what??

Why are we supposed to be scared of them then??

It — Are you like — we're literally being told they cannot even shoot down the protagonist's helicopters!

So why did you run away then if they literally can't even hurt your helicopters to the point that it's not a threat at all and you're not concerned about it at all, because you are convinced that that's not a capability they have???

Why would you fucking say that?

> I was slowing us down, scanning for incoming weapons, even though the chances were good that they didn't have any.

The people who are here to murder you and came here pre-planning all of these murders, and you expect me to believe that they don't have weapons to shoot helicopters down with?

Are you fucking kidding me? Are you fucking kidding me? This is why Martha Wells had to break the fourth wall at the end of like what was that, chapter four or five? And just yell at us preemptively to stop complaining that it doesn't make sense. This is ridiculous.

And again, we we just keep getting told, "Ooh, they're so scary. They're so threatening.” But also, they they definitely don't have any weapons with which to shoot down helicopters. They don't have any weapons to threaten the protagonist that they're trying to murder with.

What are you fucking talking about? This is ridiculous.

> The comm channel came alive and a voice said, "We can discuss our situation. An arrangement can be made." There was so much scanning and anti-canning going on. The voice was made of static. It was creepy. “Land your vehicle and we can discuss it.”

And again, you if you're going to tell us that the voice was ~made of static~, you should be telling us that before we've already read the fucking dialogue.

“The comm channel came alive and a voice said blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah. There was blah

blah blah so much interference the voice was made of static.”

We can't imagine that retroactively!

I shouldn't have to reread that sentence to imagine how it supposedly sounds because you only bothered to tell me that ~the voice is made of static~ after it's already spoken.

(to person offscreen) Listen to this part you missed. Listen to this part you missed. As they fly toward the GrayCris compound, that they would never have discovered if the villains weren't incompetent,

(from offscreen)because she doesn't know how to write herself out of her own plot,

Yes! Because she could just could not think of one single way for the heroes to figure out how to save themselves.

> I was slowing us down, scanning for incoming weapons, even though the chances were good they didn't have any.

(from offscreen) Why would they not have any?

Exactly. I— you missed my, you missed my whole spiel about that. So, go ahead and just say your thoughts so we can just show that like this is basic shit.

(from offscreen) They're approaching people who are more than willing to commit murder, who are going out of their way to do all this random ass shit, for no reason when it'd be infinitely easier to do so many other sabotage things. And that that that counts as one of “the protagonist did *not* blank.”

> (from offscreen, slowly, skeptically) “I was slowing us down, scanning for weapons.”

(from offscreen) And don't they end up having weapons? They have guns.

They apparently they don't have weapons that can threaten a helicopter.

(from offscreen) You can... *shoot* a helicopter.

Yes. Yes, you can. You can shoot a helicopter with a regular gun.

(from offscreen) You can shoot them with a fucking *slingshot*, and if your aim was good enough that you got in through the pilot's door and hit him in the head —!

Yep. Yeah.

(from offscreen) Let alone when you have um,

Yeah.

(from offscreen) ~Killer robots~ enslaved that can have perfect superhuman —

They have energy guns built into their arms for anybody who's forgotten. And also they apparently all

have big projectile weapons that don't get a description

(from offscreen) like, Murderbot has gone up against some humans in some — you know, they would they wouldn't be humans. They wouldn't be humans. Of Murderbot was going up against some random ~CombatUnits~ in a hopper: “Oh, they were stupid for doing this. I took I unleashed the energy weapon in my left arm and just sent off a single fire. Shot that shot off the fucking rotator and boom, they went crashing.”

Yeah, like that. That ~stupid little~ uh other enemy slave—

(from offscreen) Actually, it probably wouldn’t even have that much detail.

Yeah, that I was going to say you're, you're even inserting more detail than what happened. It would just be um, “I shot at the helicopter and it crashed.”

That — remember from—

(from offscreen, loudly with drama) two bullets hit me in the hip and another in my—!

No, see see calling them bullets, even that's too much. It's just “I felt an impact in my thigh.” No other detail. (sarcastically) But it's totally deep and serious and meaningful guys!!!!

Anyways, remember that first fight or so where we were told that “oh the enemy slave that I'm have gone out of my way to murder, despite them trying to warn me away, through their brainwashing, to try and keep me safe even though they don't know who I am, and they just care about me anyways, because we're all in the same situation, *they think*?”

Um, remember how Murderbot's like “oh they — I shot them in the hand, they made the mistake of picking up their weapon with the hand I hadn't shot”

And it's like, that's not a mistake. That's literally the only option available.

You getting shot in the hand so that your hand is gone. So you pick up your weapon with your other hand that still remains. That's not a mistake. But Martha Wells tells us that was a mistake that the enemy made, just to make Murderbot look smarter. And she does this so many times.

And again, again pretending that, just so, we're — we're literally expected to believe that people who came here for *the sole premeditated purpose of murdering everybody* we’re being told and asked to just accept that they don't have weapons to shoot a helicopter with.

Not even, not even one.

Even though all of their SecUnits have built-in energy weapons with absolutely unlimited ammo and unknown range, but we're just supposed to accept that they just they don't have weapons that can hurt their helicopter.

And like this is bad writing.

This isn't something we can suspend our disbelief for.

This isn't you asking me, “hey, want to suspend your disbelief to just accept the fact for this the sake of this story that there are vampire sharks on the moon?”

No, this is the, this is literally asking me to believe that people who came here for the express purpose of committing multiple premeditated murders — Like I think, what's, what makes it a mass murder? How many people do you have to kill at once for it to be mass murder?

Like they came here to do mass murder and cover up and kill a whole bunch of people, who all have access to helicopters and shit, but we're being asked to just believe, based on absolutely nothing, just told to us as though it's it's a known fact, they don't have any weapons that can hurt our helicopter.

Uh

> I was slowing us down, scanning for incoming weapons, even though the chances were good they didn't have any.

It's like why wouldn't they have any?

(from offscreen) Three or more people during an event with no cooling off period between homicides.

So yeah, mass murder is literally just killing at least three people at the same time in the same time span. This is like

(from offscreen) without having days and weeks in between.

Yeah, they killed like Yes. 20.

(from offscreen) There's eight of them.

This Yeah, this is literally premeditated mass murderers that have already successfully killed like 20? 10 I don't know how many people, and enslaved a whole bunch more.

But we're now being told that oh um they actually don't have any weapons that can they can shoot the protagonist with even though they also have access to drones.

And I don't know if you know this, guys, um but you can, you can in fact fly a drone and use a drone as a goddamn projectile weapon.

You would think, um, the bad guys would do that, because Murderbot does that shit all the time.

They're in a helicopter. You have drones. You could literally just slam the drone into whoever is flying the helicopter. You could slam the drone into one specific spot and make it go boom.

That's what would be happening if it were the protagonists not in the helicopter.

(from offscreen) Actually, just the fact that these little tiny drones are less than a centimeter—

Yeah. And have no description whatsoever. \

(from offscreen) Go up into the lower (upper) atmosphere. Yeah. I don't think — Why can you not just set their engines to max and just have them ram people in the fucking head? Like I'm trying to think of a movie that maybe did this at some point. There's probably some movie out there that did that, but it's literally just

Because it's literally just a bullet that you can fucking remote control. Like even if it's not going as fast as a bullet, you can just chuck a drone. You can just chuck something. Something doesn't have to go strength — How fast do How fast do bullets go? Something doesn't have to be going as fast as a bullet to kill or incapacitate you. Like, this is just ridiculousness.

The only reason the villains are this incompetent is because Martha Wells is too bad of a goddamn writer to think of any way for the protagonist to overpower or outthink them in or even just outmaneuver them in any way, because it's badly written.

These are not competent heroes. They just “win” because the bad guys are written to be ridiculously incompetent and useless.

She literally —

(from offscreen) Bullets travel typically anywhere 800 some miles per hours up to 2,000 plus miles per hour.

You don't have to be going that fast to kill someone or like, you wouldn't even have to kill them. Just throw them back. Knock them out for a few seconds. You're in a helicopter. It's going to go crashing. This is ridiculous.

And again, this is making it so there's no possible fucking stakes.

We cannot have any tension for this approach scene because we literally get told “there's zero chance of their helicopter getting shot down” a thing that would be at the forefront of anybody's mind reading this, except we get told “No, that can't happen. Don't worry about it. That that would be stupid. That would

that would mean that our villains um know what they're doing!”

And again this next paragraph:

> The comm channel came alive and a voice said, "We can discuss our situation. An arrangement can be made." There was so much scanning and anti-canning going on that the voice was made of static.

We should be getting told that what the voice sounds like before we get the fucking dialogue.

Here's how to fix that shit: The comm came came alive with a burst of static and barely fucking able to be…differentiated. I'm just making this shit up.

(from offscreen) discernable.

What?

(from offscreen) Discernable.

Yeah, discernable is the word I'm looking for. Barely discernable from the white noise was a voice crackling and sparking saying, "We can discuss our situation. An arrangement can be made."

Why are those also those are both two separate sentences. We can discuss our situation. Period. An arrangement can be made. Period.

Like, if you're going to tell us that the voice doesn't sound like a normal voice because there's so much radio static interfering, tell us that before we get the dialogue. You should never be forcing your fucking audience to have to go back and reread the fucking dialogue just to imagine how it's supposed to be sounding, because you cannot be asked to fucking tell us what it sounds like until afterward.

(from offscreen) So, are they threatening them?

Who?

(from offscreen) Why do they want to come to an arrangement?

Um, because they're incompetent villains and there's literally no other way that the bad guys could survive. Literally, there's no in-universe explanation whatsoever. And I, I literally went on a whole thing about how this could be made to make sense, if we had any characterization for the villains or any motivation for the villains besides being evil for the sake of being evil. It's fucking ridiculous.

> Land your vehicle and we can discuss it. Mensah gave it a minute as if she was thinking it over, then answered, "I'll send our SecUnit to speak to you." She cut the comm off. As we got closer, we had a visual on the site. It was a low plateau surrounded by trees. Their habitat was visible to the west. Because the trees encroached on their campsite, their domes and vehicle landing pad were elevated on wide platforms. The company required this as a security feature if you wanted your base to be anywhere without open terrain around it. It cost extra and if you didn't want it, it cost even

more to guarantee your bond. It was one of the reasons I thought my great idea would work.

And again, we keep getting told over and over, “the company's so cheap. They're such a scammer. They're so cheap. They don't do anything well. They don't care about your safety!!”

But then also “here's all these safety features that they force you to use. Also, the this company is so cheap, but also it costs so much money and is so expensive and they care so much about your safety that they're going to even send an extra super fast ship extra ahead of the regular ship that would come to your rescue. They're going to send you a super duper fast ambulance to rescue you. Even though we keep getting told they're so cheap, but also they're so expensive.”

Make up your fucking mind!

Is it the cheapest, shittiest fucking option? Is it, let's say, Dollar Tree chicken noodle soup, or is it, I don't know, Campbell's chicken noodle soup? Which is it?

Also, never buy fucking— Never. No, not Dollar Tree. Family Dollar chicken noodle soup. Is it Family Dollar chicken noodle soup where the whole goddamn can is actually just this much so that when you pour it into the pot, you literally can't even put the fuckle ladle in because it's literally this shallow. Yes, that I'm not lying. This actually happened. Never buying soup from Family Dollar again.

We keep getting told completely contradictory things and supposed to accept them in the moment, and then just go along with whatever contradictory thing we're told next, because it's badly written.

And this isn't in the “Yeah, I can send spend my disbelief to accept vampire sharks on the moon.” This is the shit writing.

This is why Martha Wells literally had to break the fourth wall in this very book to tell people, “stop complaining that the characters actions don't make sense. They totally make sense. Even though I'm not writing them in a way where it can make sense!”

As I keep saying, with good writing, proper setup, and characterization, you can get away with anything.

You can get away with characters doing completely ridiculous things that are entirely within character and predictable. And nobody who's read The Thing will argue that, yeah, they wouldn't have done that.

These fucking villains should not be doing this.

And if not for the shit writing, where this is the only way Martha Wells could figure out to move the goddamn plot quote unquote
“forward”, they wouldn't be doing this. It's just bad writing.

There's a difference between “there's vampire sharks on the moon” and the people, the fucking extremely rich evil corporation that came here for the sole purpose of committing multiple mass murders and government and government conspiracies, you can't convince me that they didn't bring any weapons to shoot a goddamn helicopter with.

That is fucking ridiculous and absurd and just bullshit contrivance writing. That is plot armor. That is fucking ridiculous.

And yes, if you write shit like this, you are bad at writing. Martha Wells is bad at fucking writing. This is a badly written story.

If the villains were allowed to actually be a threat, these goddamn heroes would be dead. And I would cheer that on.

Honestly, they would have starved to death out in the fucking jungle. That doesn't have a goddamn description in any way

(from offscreen) In the open.

Yeah, let me reread that because again, she's trying to pretend there's a mystery and ~ooh um I'm doing a mystery by just not telling us things.~ So, audience. Let me Yeah, let me just read that paragraph again.

> As we got closer, we had a visual on the site. It was a low plateau surrounded by trees. That habitat was visible to the west.

No, let me start and just add the punctuation.

“As we got closer, we had a visual on the site. Period. It was a low plateau, surrounded by trees. Period. Their habitat was visible to the west. Period. Because the trees encroached on their campsite, their dome and their domes and vehicle landing pad were elevated on wide platforms. Period. The company required this as a security feature if you wanted your base to be anywhere without open terrain around it. Period. It cost extra. And if you didn't want it, it cost even more to guarantee your bond. Period. It was one of the reasons I thought my great idea would work.”

We don't know what Murderbot's great idea is yet, probably because Martha Wells genuinely hadn't thought of it yet when she wrote this part.

And also, this is just trying to tease us that there's an actual like good idea going on here. But again, not

just keeping information from the audience isn't actually a good storytelling tactic unless you are doing it very purposefully and well done well.

It's not done well here. We're just — not telling us things and expecting us to just go along with it.

And again, the only reason this supposedly “great idea” works at all is that the villains already suicidally sabotage themselves beyond salvation for no fucking reason.

Purely because of the bad writing. There is no in-universe explanation for why the villains told them *exactly* where they live when they could have literally would have just been the simplest thing in the world to let them starve to death out in the jungle.

And no reason that they're not just shooting them down now.

~They have nothing to lose~ Let them starve to death in the fucking jungle!

As I said, a motivation where they're explicitly seeking out Murderbot in particular because of its hacked governor module, that would be one thing. That could actually be a mystery and a reveal that would be make all of their bullshit, the bullshit they're doing, make sense:

Why are they not just leaving them to starve out in the jungle? Because they actually need that goddamn slave in particular. Because of what's in its head, like a sort of — not Fallout New Vegas thing, not that. The fucking thing wasn’t *in* our head. We had it and then we got *shot* in the head.

Anyways, let me turn the fan on. It's hot. Like, this is just so fucking ridiculous.

She literally had to break the fourth wall to yell at people not to complain that it doesn't make sense.

If you have — if you feel the urge to break the fourth wall to yell at your audience not to complain that the characters behavior doesn't make sense with what we're supposed to believe about them, maybe you

should just rewrite the characters so that what they're doing makes sense with who they're written to be.

It's not difficult.

With good writing and actual characterization, you can get away with your characters doing anything.

There's some fucking ridiculous thing that's not a good idea at all, but I know that the character would do it, because that's the only way forward.

And I had a fantastic example and I don't remember what it is.

Like I don't I, I wish the character had made a different decision, but like, for who that character is, there's no other decision. This is the choice they're going to make.

I don't know who I am thinking about.

Oh yes. Stupid ass Noel? no.

Except like No, he doesn't even — No, it doesn't even make sense there because that guy got, he got trained for this shit his whole goddamn life.

(to person offscreen) Do you know who I'm thinking of? Some charact some character who just makes like the worst—

Oh, wait. No, I know who it is. I can't tell you that, though. All right.

(from offscreen) I'll probably forget by the time it gets around.

No, I meant the audience. You know already.

Okay. Um, spoilers for the Eighth Doctor audio adventures with Charley Pollard, I guess. Sorry.

Uh, timestamp 10916. Um, sorry if you don't want spoilers. Um, there's a Doctor Who…. I'll, I'll be vague. I'll be vague. I won't I won't spoil it. You got to watch it. I will be very vague.

(from offscreen) Listen to it. Yeah, you got to listen.

What did I say?

(from offscreen) Watch it.

Yeah, you can't watch it. It's an audio drama. You have to listen to it or maybe find a transcript somewhere that's decent. I don't think they exist because BBC sucks.

There's a Doctor Who story where the Eighth Doctor makes a decision.

It's entirely in character and I know that he would never make any other — I mean he might make a different decision afterward, after everything that goes wrong because of it but even then, he would probably do it again, if I'm being honest, because that's the kind of person he is.

And I don't know, he he might just do the exact same thing again.

Um, I'm not going to tell you what the decision is, but the decision he made was the *wrong fucking choice*.

But because of who he is as a character and a, as a person that has been set up over the entire preceding series and, you know, the entire history of the show that is also context for this, for anybody who watched that, he wouldn't make any other choice.

Not in this fucking situation. There's, I mean that he could have done something else, but he wouldn't. The, this Eighth Doctor would not make a different choice.

The choice he decides to make leads to the end of the fucking world.

And I don't, I can't, I don't even know how to describe it. Like the end of the world doesn't really like… Yeah, we'll just leave it at that.

It leads to the end of the world, like, completely it ends, ruins ruins everything. Um, it hurts the people he loves.

He's betraying the people he loves in like the most cruel way possible. But he has convinced himself it's the good thing to do and that it's actually helpful.

It's literally condemning them to a fate worse than death. But because of who he is as a character, he wouldn't and *can't* have done the right thing in this situation. So that everything that can go wrong goes wrong and the fuck world comes to a goddamn end.

And to fix it, his companion Charley has to make the same decision.

But she makes *the right fucking choice* and does what is the right thing in this situation, even though — it's bad for her, personally, just like him doing the right thing to begin with would have been harm — would have hurt him personally, would have made everything better for literally everyone, including the people he's trying to protect, but he didn't want to actually protect them, he wanted to protect his own fucking feelings, so he made the wrong fucking choice and it hurt everybody.

And it's done on purpose by the story. This, and this is presented — Everybody listening to the story knows he has made the wrong fucking choice and we are upset with him.

But also, it's not a bad writing choice because this makes sense for who he is as a character. This aligns with everything this character is and was up until this fucking point. Maybe in the future he might do something differently. We don't know. (laughs weakly) He gets amnesia a lot.

This is a choice that makes sense for the Eighth Doctor to make. It's not a good choice. It's objectively the worst thing he could have fucking done. But it's not bad writing, because this is the only choice this character could have made in that moment for who he was in that moment and every moment leading up to it.

Afterwards, it's different. But this is good writing, because the choices he makes is impacted by every aspect of character development and characterization

and backstory and context that exists for him when he makes this fucking decision yhat is horrible.

It's objectively fucking horrific.

He's literally sentencing the people he loves to a fate worse than death so that *he doesn't have to feel bad*.

And that's bad.

But it's not bad writing, because nobody's — you can't — this character in particular in that moment, this is the only choice he could have made without betraying everything that of who he was as a character.

And then Charley making the correct choice is comenting who she is as a fucking character. And that in fact I can't say the goddamn quote. It'll make me cry.

I'll say the fucking quote. I might cry though. Something something—

(from offscreen) Let me tell you

No, no, not that one. That's the TARDIS. No, no. ‘I thought you w’ — Charley speaking to the Doctor, and Charley is a she. C H A R L E Y.

Uh, saying, uh, “when I met you, I thought you were the bravest person I ever knew, but I was wrong. *I'm the bravest person here*”

Because she's actually willing to do the right thing. Even though, emotionally, it'll kill her.

A thing that the Doctor was unwilling to do, which led to everything going wrong and everybody else being sentenced to a fate worse than death.

She's willing to do the right thing even if it hurts her, because that's who she is as a character. And also, you know, the additional context of she was the one who had to witness him making the selfish wrong decision to not do the same thing for her. She knows exactly what it is like to be on the fucking receiving end of that kind of cruelty.

And she can't do to him what he did to her.

She's not that cruel.

She's not that cowardly.

She is the bravest person there.

She is the only one willing to do what is right.

And that is her characterization.

And this is good writing, because Charley wasn't established to be a coward who always runs away from danger and never sticks up for other people. This isn't coming out of nowhere. This isn't “characters who were literally here just for doing mass murders and no other goddamn reason suddenly not having guns and and and sabotaging themselves for no reason by letting the people that could literally just be left out there to starve to death.”

This is bad writing.

This doesn't make sense for the characters.

Again, with good writing, with good characterization, you can get away with anything. You can get away with the Doctor willingfully sentencing people to a fate worse than death, if that makes sense for who the Doctor is in that goddamn moment and what you have set him up as.

And the fact that he thinks, "Oh, I can get away with it. I can fix it by making the bad decision, but I can fix it anyways somehow. I don't have a ficlomg plan. Everything will just come out all right."

And then it doesn't.

And that's good fucking writing. Everybody else has to deal with the consequences of the Doctor's ficlomg horrific, selfish, and cruel decision. And they get to — at least one person gets to fucking yell at him for it and gets to have their godamn speech.

Charley doesn't, unfortunately, because most of the writers following this episode are misogynists and didn't want to deal with anything going on there.

But almost one person, the TARDIS, got to fucking have her goddamn speech and say, "You are a fucking horrible person for what you have fucking done and what you have put all of us through. Fuck you."

None of that is happening here.

And again, in that moment, it makes sense for the TARDIS to hate the Doctor's guts and give that kind of speech because *he literally sentenced Charley and the TARDIS to a fate worse than death*.

He literally sentenced them to fucking torture for all eternity, to put it lightly, torture for all eternity.

And that's what he put he decided to put them through, because he didn't want to upset his his moral high ground feelings.

That makes sense for all of the characters for what they are doing. Their choices make sense because of who they have been established to be and what has been established for them and what is going on. It makes sense. Their decisions make sense.

You don't have to agree with their decisions. In fact, you're not supposed to agree with the decision for what he fucking did. You might *understand* his decision.

You know exactly where he's coming from. You would probably want to do the same thing he did.

That doesn't mean it's the right choice.

It makes sense for him to do that because that's who he was written to be.

None of the shit in *this* book is even coming close to that.

We are told that these characters are very good at killing people and came here for the sole purpose of

committing mass murders, multiple mass murders, but they don't have guns with which to shoot a helicopter out of the sky.

They don't — they haven't improvised any weapons despite having access to drones and, you know, multiple meat shield slaves who are heavily armed.

You can't tell me that Oh, Um, the SecUnits could not simply be ordered to combine their literally unend, unending ammo, unlimited power energy weapon blasts, which is just a fucking Star Wars pew pew laser gun.

You can't you cannot convince me and expect me to believe that these fuckers who came here for the sole purpose of killing people, they have no morals — They're not trying to spare anybody that they can spare to make themselves feel better.

They're here to kill everybody. They came here for the sole purpose of killing everybody. They're lying when they're saying “this doesn't have to end in violence. We can we can blah blah blah.”

They're here to kill everybody.

You cannot expect me to believe that they came here to kill everybody, have received no extenuating information that would make them change their minds about that, and then expect me to believe that.

Okay, maybe, sure, maybe getting a gun to shoot a helicopter down is a very specific thing that the company wouldn't let them have without finding out, “oh, you're here to kill everybody. No, you can't do that.”

Then they should be improvising fucking weapons like competent people who are here to kill people!

And even without fucking making up, scavenging shit together and using things as weapons that aren't meant to be weapons, they have at least five, what did they say? Five, six, was it five total? Hold on.

I think they I think we just established before this that there are five additional slaves that they brought with

them plus two? I don't, I don't remember the numbers.

They have a bunch of slaves with unlimited unending overpowered energy guns in their — goddamn laser guns built into their arms.

You cannot expect me to fucking believe that the people who came here for the sole purpose of murdering people aren't just ordering those slaves to shoot the helicopter down with their overpowered laser guns built into their arm that never run out of ammo and have unlimited power.

That's not a thing you can convince me of.

And the fact that we are expected to believe it is fucking ridiculous and bad fucking writing.

> In an open area on the plateau were seven figures. Four

Okay, now we get numbers. Four SecUnits. And again, replace SecUnit with slave. Enslaved meat shields.

Four enslaved meat shields. And anytime it says “humans” or “clients”, just say slave owners.

“In an open area on the plateau were seven figures. Four enslaved meat shields and three slave owners in the color-coded envirro suits, blue, green, and yellow.

And again, we we're randomly getting told that these are color-coded. What does the — What do the fucking colors code for? No fucking clue, because there's no goddamn world building because this is a shit book that's shittily written and doesn't give a fuck about anything.

> It meant they had one SecUnit and probably 27 plus humans back at their habitat if they had followed the rule of one rental unit per 10 humans. I sat us down below the plateau on a relatively flat rock, the view blocked by brush and trees.

So maybe maybe one other fucking slave that's not Murderbot might survive this goddamn massacre on

this planet, if that other slave stays back at the the hub.

Probably not, though.

> I put the pilot's console in standby and looked at Mensah. She pressed her lips together like she wanted to say something and was repressing the urge. Then she nodded firmly and said, "Good luck." I felt like I should say something to her and didn't know what and just stared at her awkwardly for a few seconds. Then I sealed up my helmet and got out of the hopper as fast as I could.

And you know, we keep, again, I have to keep bringing up things.

We keep getting told that Murderbot is socially awkward and so has social anxiety and is an introvert, but then it never actually says or really does anything that's actually socially awkward. and actually gives people a reason to be annoyed with or dislike it

because it's annoying and awkward to hang around with.

Go read Macroscope by...I forget the author's name again. It's just another — I just read like five fucking different books in relation to Blit, B L I T.

Go read Macroscope because that's an actual neurodivergent protagonist who we don't just get *told* is socially awkward. We see it. He is constantly making social blenders. He is constantly actually saying things that upset other people because he's neurodeivergent and socially awkward, which makes him actually awkward socially.

Unlike Murderbot where we just keep getting told, "Oh, it's it's totally autistic. It's totally socially awkward" and then it never says anything actually socially awkward, because then Martha Wells wouldn't like it if it's not "cool and suave" at all times and badass.

We just keep — again with the whole underdog. "It's totally an underdog!" Except it's never actually the

fucking underdog. We just keep getting told, "Oh, it's so socially anxious. It's got such social anxiety. It's so awkward in social situations” to make us feel bad for it and sympathize with it, but then it never actually does anything that's awkward or weird or strange.

Never ever.

It's just bad writing.

Literally, go read Macroscope. Borrow it from the internet archive. Borrow it from your fucking library. Just go read that and, and then come back to this and read this and go, "Wow, yeah, this is just this isn't representation.” This is just um, again, more tokenization.

We just keep pretending that Murderbot is totally socially awkward and uh neurodivergent, but then it never actually does anything awkward socially.

We just get told, like we had to be told here that “I stared at her awkwardly” instead of just — and then Mensah has no thoughts on that or reaction to that at

all. It's just being told, "Oh, I stared at her awkwardly” to make us laugh, even though this is supposed to be a tense scene, or it *should* be a tense scene, but we can't have that.

> Then I sealed up my helmet and got out of the hopper as fast as I could

Because yeah, you want to ~run away from that awkward social situation~ that wasn't actually awkward.

> I went through the trees listening for that fifth SecUnit in case it was hiding somewhere waiting for me, but there was no sound of movement in the undergrowth. I came out of cover

This is just ridiculous. Why? Can you explain to me why exactly the villains are letting them land? Just hold the fuck on.

This is Yeah, this is fucking absurd.

In the open area on the plateau were seven figures, four slaves, four three slave owners, blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

And then part of that exact paragraph where we're describing that shit, we get “I sat us down below the plateau on a relatively flat rock, the view blocked by brush and trees.”

And again, the villains are just letting them do this extremely suspicious thing and letting them park their helicopter out of sight for no reason. There's no reason.

The, the villains don't even try to protest and tell them, "No, you're going to fucking land where we can see you."

No, we don't get any of that, because then the protagonists would just be dead.

Martha Wells is literally — she literally is so bad at writing she cannot actually let the heroes do anything actually competent.

She just has to make the villains just ludicrously fucking useless.

They're lit — they are literally just letting them park their helicopter behind some trees so that they have no — This is ridiculous. This is fucking ridiculous.

If you have to make your villains this fucking useless and incompetent just so your heroes can win, you are bad at writing.

Your heroes don't deserve to fucking win.

This is ridiculous. There are so many ways you could actually be having the heroes do something to outsmart, outmaneuver, outthink, even just overpower, physically, the bad guys. But we're not doing any of that!

The bad guys just let them do whatever they want for no reason. There is no explanation or reasoning behind the villains letting them get away with this shit. This is ridiculous.

> I felt

And this, and again this is why this is just such, the most shallow fucking bullshit. We can't even have any kind of threat from the villains. They literally let them land their goddamn helicopter wherever they want for no reason. Not even threatening or getting angry about it. No, just no. No problem at all. No questioning because it's badly written. It's just shit writing.

> I went through the trees listening for that fifth [slave] in case it was hiding somewhere waiting for me. But there was no sound of movement in the undergrowth. I came out of cover and climbed the rocky slope to the plateau.

Like, yeah, the bad guys are on the fucking plateau. The bad guys let them land below the plateau out of sight so that you have to climb up onto the goddamn plateau to get to them. This is beyond fucking description of incompetency from these goddamn villains.

And there's no justification for it at all. This is ridiculous. This is the lengths of incompetency that Martha Wells has to make the villains do, just so that the bad the, the good guys don't immediately die.

This is bad writing. This is fucking pathetic.

Are you listening to this shit? Incompetent villains

(from offscreen) and they're not even having to pass a speech check about having a damage landing gear for this.

Literally, literally, they could literally be, they, they're not even having, as they just said, having to pass a speech check about pretending that their their helicopter has to land early because it's broken and stuff.

They don't have to convince them of anything. They're just not — with not even — there's not even a comment made about “why are you fucking landing all the way over there?” You are — we're, no, this —

they're not even telling them where to land for the — They're not even telling them — so bad.

Yeah, they're not even—

This is just shit writing. This is just fucking ridiculous shallow shitty writing that cannot even begin to take itself seriously.

But then Martha Wells will literally get paid to give speeches where she says that this is the most deep and meaningful and serious story ever.

Explain to me why the villains are letting them land below their goddamn plateau out of sight so that the villains have no idea what they're doing. Explain it to me. There is no goddamn justification.

And again, there could be in-universe actual genuine justifications for why the villains would let them do this. None of those happen.

There's no justification. It's just shitty fucking writing to make the villains incompetent because the, the

heroes literally are not well written so that they can actually do anything for themselves.

> I came out of cover and climbed the rocky slope to the plateau, then walked toward the other group, listening to the crackle on my comm. They were going to let me get close, which was a relief. I'd hate to be wrong about this. It would make me feel pretty stupid.

And we still haven't been told what Murderbot's plan is, which means that Martha Wells can just say any, and do anything, and have Murderbot do and say anything, it'll all seem like it's all part of the plan. The plan we haven't been told.

> I stopped several meters away, opened the channel, and said, "This is the SecUnit assigned to the PreservationAux survey team. I was spent sent to speak to you about an arrangement. I felt the pulse then a signal bundle designed to take over my governor module and freeze it and freeze me. The idea was obviously to immobilize me then insert the

> combat override module into my data port again.

Why do I, exactly exactly, this is a, and again let me read that again. Let me show you how easy it is to free a goddamn slave in this setting.

> I felt the pulse then a signal bundle designed to take over my governor module and freeze it and freeze me. The idea was obviously to immobilize me then insert the combat override module into my data port again.

It's literally so easy to rescue a slave with a governor module that you can just casually send out ~a signal bundle~ that will freeze their governor module so that it can't kill them, and freeze them in place so that they cannot be forced to fight back against you. And then you can permanently disable their governor module and free them from this fucking form of slavery. It doesn't free them from the core fucking, core programming brainwashing, but it at least gets rid of the instant fucking death if you disobey an order problem.

And that's how easy it is. That's how easy it is. This would work perfectly exactly as the bad guys planned, except for the part where Murderbots governor module is already hacked magically. Don't ask how. It doesn't make sense.

> That was why they had had to arrange the meeting so close to their hub. They had needed the equipment there to be able to do this. It wasn't something they could send through the feed.

And again, we're just claiming that the bad guys just had to to sabotage themselves to the point of suicidality, um, so they can take control of Murderbot, a thing they don't need to do.

And again, as I said, this whole thing would make so much more sense if they had been sent here to find Murderbot in particular, but that's not, that's not here.

It just, it, it's it's — none of this is— It's bad writing. It's bad writing.

Also, “they needed the equipment in their hub to do this” is supposed to, as the fandom will then claim, oh, well, and *just in response to this video* you know they didn't notice this shit happening and would not be aware of it without me having to inform them.

Uh, they would argue, “well, umm, it's actually not that easy to hack a governor module to rescue a slave. You need that specialized equipment!”

You can probably the again an entire goddamn drone is less than a centimeter. A a drone that's the size of a a centimeter is considered really huge and bulky.

It's fucking, It's bullshit and slavery apologism. It is so goddamn easy to free a slave in this goddamn setting. But Martha Wells doesn't want to free the slaves, because she thinks that robot slave rebellions are cliché, because she literally just cares about the status quo and demonizing slaves.

> This was why they had had to arrange the meeting.

And why do we keep doing “had had”???

This was why they had to arrange the meeting!

No, but we keep doing this! “was why they had had”.

Why don't I just open it in the, the thing with the, the Humble Bundle? Just search “had had” and see how many

(from offscreen) I don’t know where the files got stored in when my computer

I can't do it on my computer. Um, if you got the Humble Bundle and or own the ebook, just search “had had” in All Systems Red and see how many times that comes up because it's getting very fucking annoying. It's unnecessary. You don't need to say “had had”.

We keep doing that. That's also again bad writing. There's some situations where it's fine. Not all of these times.

And again, that's probably been left in there just like saying “including in”, literally just to try and pad out the fucking page count to make the book seem longer than it really is.

> They needed they had needed the equipment there to be able to do this. It wasn't something they could send through the feed. So, it's a good thing my governor module was work wasn't working. And all I felt was a mild tickle

Because again, the villains cannot actually threaten the, the good guys in any fucking way. They don't have goddamn weapons. They can't do anything to Murderbot’s governor module. They can't even use the combat override module, because that literally got done with and removed as a threat like, what did I say? Less than two pages after it was introduced abruptly out of nowhere, when it was never established as being a possibility before then.

So, ~oh, this plan to freeze its governor module to prevent the governor module from killing it and prevent it from fighting back is so easy that it would

have worked instantly without a problem if not for Murderbot's governor module magically already being broken.~ That's how easy it is to free the slaves in this series. Murderbot could do this to the other SecUnits at any time.

Gurathin especially and Pin-Lee, because apparently she's really good at coding even though she's a lawyer, they could do this shit.

They could whip this shit up in a few hours at max. And saying it would take that long is just giving too much fucking leeway.

They could do this shit at any point. And they continue to have this ability throughout the goddamn series. But yet they never use it, because Martha Wells is racist and wants you to be racist, and doesn't want you to *actually* want any slaves in the series to be freed.

The only character we're supposed to “feel bad about” being enslaved is Murderbot, and it's not actively enslaved on the same level that all of the

other slaves that, whose deaths by murder from the good guys were supposed to cheer on.

> One of them started toward me. I said, "I assume you're about to try to install another combat override module and send me back to kill them."

Also, again, with the padding of the word count, we don't need to keep saying “combat override module”, but we keep doing every single time. You could just say “the override”, but we have to expand that out to combat ma, mod, module — “combat override module” every single godamn time just to try and make the story seem longer than it really is.

> I opened my gun ports and expanded the weapons in my arms, then folded them back in. “I don't recommend that course of action.”

(laughing) Do you think she took that from Megatron?

(from offscreen) What?

The, the, the unfolding arms guns.

(from offscreen, laughing) probably.

And again, Murderbot has laser guns in its arms. Unlimited ammo, unlimited power. We don't know what kind of range, but it can be assumed it's very fucking far. There's no reason the bad guys could not have shot down their helicopter.

> “The SecUnits

— enslaved meat shields —

> went into alert mode. The human who had started forward froze then backed away. The body language of the others was flustered, startled. I could tell from the faint calm static that they were talking to each other in their own system. I said, "Anyone want to comment on that?"”

And again, that's supposed to be funny. That's that's a funny witty oneliner. Again.

So, the bad guys continued to not actually be a fucking threat.

> That got their attention. There was no reply. Not a surprise. The only people I've run into who actually want to get into conversations with SecUnits are my weird humans.

“My weird humans.” Again, Murderbot claiming possession over its slave owners as though they belong to it, and not the other way around. So that we think that this is ~endearing~ and it's like, ~awww Murderbot thinks of them as *its* humans!!!~~

They are its fucking slave owners.

They are enslaving it and literally right in this goddamn instance actively using it as a fucking human shield, the way they have been this entire godamn story, while they treat it with nothing but cruelty, dehumanization, dismissal, and literally going out of their way to torment it for funsies.

Because there's no other reason for what Gurathin keeps doing his “loyalty tests” after mind-raping Murderbot to know that it is not trying to hurt them.

“My weird humans,” Martha Wells wants, this is literally the Mammy trope. It's the Mammy trope. Look up fucking “stereotypes of Black people in cinema.”

Just type that into YouTube search bar. This is the Mammy trope. We're supposed to say ~awww, the slave really cares about its slave owners~

They're its slave owners!

“Those are my slave owners and no one's allowed to hurt them” This is the slavery apologism. Martha Wells wants you to think it's cute how much Murderbot, the fucking slave, cares about and wants to protect its slave owners, where we pretend that they actually belong to it, instead of it literally being their legal property because they went solar systems out of their way to enslave it as a fucking meat shield.

> I said, "I have an alternate solution to both our problems." The one in the blue envirro suit said, "You have a solution." The voice was the same one who had made the offer in our hub. It was also very skeptical, which you can imagine. To them, talking to me was like talking to a hopper or a piece of mining equipment.

And Martha Wells just says this shit, and then it's never backed up by the goddamn story.

I said, and again, that's more slavery apologism and pretending, ~oh yeah, people just see the SecUnits who are very blatantly cyborgs. Everybody just sees them as nothing more than a mindless machine like that helicopter or a fucking mining drill~

That's, again, just in there to make us pretend and think that the, the PreservationAux team. ~Oh, they just had no idea that that Murderbot was a person. How are they supposed to know that robots are people?~

Even though in this very same book they claim that robots are equal citizens on their home planet. Meaning that they do know that robots are people. Meaning that their claims to have not realized that Murderbot was a person because ~~we just thought you were a robot O: ~~~ doesn't fucking make sense.

They are just fucking liars. They are slave owners who know and willingly became slave owners happil, and, and, and then lie to the slave about just not not knowing it was a person to justify the month, months, we don't fucking know how long it's been — of treating it like an object, like a slave.

Which they've continued to do throughout this entire fucking thing.

> I said, "You weren't the first to hack PreservationAux's hub system." She had opened their comm channel to talk to me, and I heard one of the others whisper, "It's a trick. One of the surveyors is telling it what to say." I said, "Your scan should show I cut I've cut my comm." This was the point where I had to say it.

> It was still hard, even though I knew I didn't have a choice. Even though it was part of my own stupid plan. “I don't have a working governor module.” that over. I was back to get I was glad to get back to the lying part. “They don't know that. I'm amenable to compromise that benefits as well you as well as me.” The blue leader said, "Are they telling the truth about knowing why we're here?" That was still annoying, even though I knew we had allowed plenty of time for this part. “You used combat override modules to make the DeltFall Units behave like rogues. If you think a real rogue SecUnit still has to answer your questions, the next few minutes are going to be an education for you.”

And it's like just fucking, Just bullshit.

There's there's no actual good reason for Murderbot to be offended by them asking a question when it is claiming to want to work for them. This is just bad writing.

And again, “you used combat override modules to make the DeltFall SecUnits behave like rogues” where “behave like rogues”, in Martha Wells speak: behave like escaping slaves, in Martha Wells speak, means going on what she calls “a massacre” where we're supposed to see the slaves killing their slave owners who, yes, every slave owner deserves to die. Sorry if you want to be a goddamn slave owner. You can die.

She wants to frame slaves escaping and killing their slave owners, a thing that is objectively good that everybody should cheer for, she wants us to see that as a, as “a mindless violent massacre of innocent people being killed by inhuman monsters who deserve to die for this”.

Slaughter is the exact word she used. The “slaughter of innocent slave owners”.

So again, she is re reinforcing right here with this statement: “You used combat override modules to make the DeltFall Units behave like rogues”.

She is once again reinforcing, *unironically* the idea that slaves who want to escape slavery are just just going to become ~murdering slaughterers of innocent lives~.

That's what she wants you to fucking believe. And if that wasn't what she wanted you to believe, this story *wouldn't be written like this.*

We wouldn't have literally 13 goddamn books in this series over like eight years now, literally continually upholding that idea and pushing that idea. It's racist.

If you personally feel bad for the slaves who get murdered in this series, congratulations. You have more morals than the book wants you to.

That's your own feelings that you are bringing to it, not the message that the book wants you to have.

The book doesn't want you to give a fuck about all of the slaves the heroes are ~righteously~ murdering and torturing. The book wants you to think that the heroes are awesome and cool and badass.

If you have a problem with the slavery in the series, it's because you have a more of a fucking moral backbone than Martha Wells wants you to.

That's not something that the series is doing right. You are bringing that to the book, not the other way around. Do not get these two fucking things confused.

This book series does not want you to care about slaves. It doesn't want you to think Murderbot is a horrible fucking person for going out of its way for almost a decade now, in real life, and 13 goddamn books, going out of its way continuously, gleefully, to murder slaves.

If you feel bad for the slaves in this series, that's because you have a bare minimum level of morals that Martha Wells lacks and wants you to not have.

> The blue leader shut me out of their comm channel. There was a long silence while they talked it over. Then she came back on and said, "What compromise?” “I can give you information you desperately need. In exchange,

> you take me onto the pickup ship with you, but list me as destroyed inventory.” That would mean nobody from the company would be expecting me back, and I could slip off in the confusion when the transport docked at the transit station. Theoretically. There was another hesitation because they had to pretend to think it over, I guess.

A thing that you and Mensah were literally just doing, which is presented as a good thing when the heroes do it, but um we're just like, "Oh, I guess that's what they're doing...” When the villains do it, because reasons, as though that makes this — like that's literally literally saying it like that.

“There was another hesitation period because they had to pretend to think it over, I guess.”

That's supposed to be insulting for the to the villains for doing the exact same thing that we're supposed to think that the heroes are clever and so smart for doing.

That's literally how Martha Wells's writing works.

If the hero's doing it, it's good and clever. If the bad guys are doing it, well, that's just silly. That's just stupid. That's silly. That's ridiculous.

Because she's bad at writing. That's how this works.

> Then the blue leader said, "We agree. If you're lying, then we'll destroy you."

Actually, yeah, I will even flip the fuck back. Here's this. There was another hesitation because they had to pretend to think it over, I guess. And then, literally just, uh, one, two, five pages ago, “Mensah gave it a minute as if she was thinking it over.”

So literally, it, the exact same goddamn action, but it's presented as good and clever when the heroes do it, and bad and evil and ridiculous when the villains do it, because there's no actual moral fucking backbone going on here. There is no, there's nothing concrete of anyway. Everything can change depending on what the situation is at hand.

> Then the blue leader said, "We agree. If you're lying, then we'll destroy you." It was perfunctory.. They intended to insert a combat override module into me before they left the planet. She continued, "What is the information?" I said, "First, remove me from the inventory. I know you still have a connection to our hub." Blue leader made an impatient gesture at yellow. He said, "We'll have to restart their hub system. That will take some time."

And again, you notice how Martha Wells just has the character assume everybody's pronouns and genders. It's because she doesn't actually support trans people, especially not non-binary people in any fucking way. She's literally just a cis person. The cis person who is fucking obsessed with biological essentialism and gender essentialism.

> I said, "Initiate the restart. Cue the command and then show me on your feed. Then I'll give you the information." Blue leader closed me out of the comm channel and spoke to yellow again.

> There was a 3 minute wait. Then the channel opened again and I got a glimpse and I got a limited access to their feed. The command was in a queue though of course they would have to time to delete it later. The important points were that our hub system had been reactivated and that I could convincingly pretend to believe them. I had been watching the time and we were now in the target window, so there was no more reason to stall. I said, "Since you've destroyed my client's beacon, they've sent a group to your beacon to manually trigger it."

I'm going to pause so I can get a drink and run to the bathroom quick. So, I'll be right back.

All righty, let's continue.

Uh, Murderbot said,

> "Since you've destroyed my client's beacon, they've sent a group to your beacon to manually trigger it.” Even with limited access to their feed, I could see that got them. Body language

> all over the place from confusion to fear." The yellow one moved uncertainly. The green one looked at Blue Leader in that flat accent. She said, "That's impossible."

Also, we have no context for what a flat accent supposedly sounds like.

> I said “one of them is an augmented human, a systems engineer. He can make it launch. Check the data you got from our hub system. It's surveyor Dr. Gurathin.”

And you notice how this if if Gurathin had a first name, this would be the moment when you say it. You don't just call people

(from offscreen) when Gurathin is not his first name.

Yeah. Because even when the characters are literally talking about each other, even though in like the book, the story that's from Mensah's perspective, there all of the characters are still referred to solely

by their last names, even though they've all been friends for years. That's not how people talk.

> Blue leader was showing tension from her shoulders all down her body. She really didn't want anybody coming to this planet. Not until they had taken care of their witness problem.

And it's like, yeah, a thing that would never be a problem if Martha Wells hadn't written them to be like suicidally incompetent. All they had to do was let them starve to death in the jungle. It's an entire planet to get lost on and die in. This is just bad writing.

> Green said, "It's lying." A trace of panic in his voice. Yellow said, "We can't chance it." Blue leader turned to him. "It's possible, then." Yellow hesitated. "I don't know. The company's systems are all proprietary, but if they have an augmented human who can hack into it

And you notice how we're like framing the concept of an augmented human as being like some super super

duper rarity that's super dramatic. It's fucking, it's just bullshit. It's, there's no such thing as fucking world building going on here, because that would — it doesn't — it's just, it's just shit writing.

We're just acting like Gurathin being an augmented human means — “that's a super scary piece of information that none of the bad guys saw coming.”

Even though they came here to murder everybody, they would have looked at who's here. Every level of this is ridiculous beyond belief.

And not in the way that Vampire Sharks on the Moon is ridiculous beyond the belief.

It's ridiculous in the way that characters who supposedly care about their friend who has a phobia of pineapples and is also deathly allergic throwing that friend a pineapple themed birthday party with pineapple upside down cake.

> “We have to go there now,” Blue Leader said. She turned to me. SecUnit, tell your client to

> get out of the hopper and come here. tell her we've come to an arrangement.”

And it's like there's, there's no, there's no fucking reason for the bad guys to have let them land below the plateau out of sight. That's just shit writing.

And, and all of the bad guys panicking for no reason and saying, "We have to go to our beacon right now!!!!!" like on the verge of fucking tears about it.

And it's like, we have no reason — There's no fucking reason for them to be freaking out this much in any way. It's just bad writing. It's absolute bullshit writing.

> “We have to go there now. SecUnit, tell your client to get out of the hopper and come here. Tell her we've come to an arrangement.”

And then Murderbot's thinking,

> All right, wow, that was not in the plan. They were supposed to leave without us.

And it's like, why would they do that? What? And again, we still haven't been told what the plan is, so that we can pretend that, um ~this is really clever and intelligent~

In parenthesis for the next paragraph.

> (Last night, Gurathin had said this was a weak point, that this was where the plan would fall apart. It was irritating that he was right.)

End parenthesis.

Lamp shade. Martha Wells. This is called lampshading. Lampshading is where you know there's a problem in your writing and the term comes from hanging a lampshade on it.

Like I don't know if this is where it comes from, but like you know those scenes where a character is pretending to hide, but they're just standing in the middle of the room, and the only thing they've done is put a lampshade — Do kids these days even know

what lampshades are with LED lights? I assume kids know it.

(from offscreen) I've never met anybody who actually uses lampshades. Like our lamp came with shades. I don't

I think only old people used lamp shades because, you know,

(from offscreen) they were like boiling hot light bulbs and you didn't want to get a sunburn just from sitting on a couch next to a lamp.

Yeah. I don't know if — lamp shades are really a thing, but in cartoons, there will be a gag: character attempting to hide, but they're literally just standing against the wall in plain sight, and the only thing they've done to hide is put a lampshade over their head.

I don't know if that's related to the term the literary term lampshading, but lampshading is where you know there's a giant problem with your writing, you

know, like the character attempting to hide in the middle of the brilliantly lit room out in the open right there.

So, in, but instead of fixing the problem, like finding a better place to hide, they just admit that there's a problem within the text, and then act like that's good enough.

That's not good enough.

Lampshading the fact that this plan makes no godamn sense and can only work if the villains are suicidally incompetent, that's not good writing.

You're just lampshading the fact that you know the story is shit and doesn't make sense. That's that's not good writing.

Lampshading the problems in your story doesn't mean those aren't anymore, that they're not problems anymore.

You can't ~wink wink nudge nudge~ and say, "Yeah, I know it's shit. I know the writing is shit. I know the plan is ridiculous and doesn't make sense and has no chance of winning, but, see, I know, I know I should have done better, but I chose not to. That makes it okay, right? That makes it cool, right?”

No, it doesn't.

Now you're just admitting that you could and should, and *know* you could have done better, because your audience deserves better, but you chose not to.

squinting I guess I got sunburn. Or maybe it's just the lighting over here. My face looks really pink.

> I couldn't open my comm channel to the hopper or the hopper feed without GrayCris knowing. And we still needed to get them and their SecUnits away from their habitat. I said, "She knows you mean to kill her. She won't come." Then I had another brilliant idea and added, "She's a planetary admin for a system non-corporate political entity. She's not stupid."

And again, this is the unironic corporate speak. This is Martha Wells doing corporate speak unironically, because a she thinks it's cool and sci-fi and because it makes, it stretches out the story just a tiny bit every single time it happens, which is so often, so that the story seems longer than it really is and seems more fucking complicated and you know, mature than it really is.

Let me say that sentence again.

> “She's a planetary admin for a system non-corporate political entity. She's not stupid.”

That's “planetary admin for a system non-corporate political entity.”

That is eight goddamn words — because we have “non-corporate”. That's put into one word. So that's nine fucking words for “she's the president of a planet”.

A backwater planet that has been established for us so far to be a shitty backwater planet that doesn't

fucking matter. Oh, but actually suddenly, just like every other goddamn thing in this story, because it's shitty written, um that's about to change drastically, because now it's convenient for the plot to them *not* to just be a shitty backwater that nobody gives a shit about again.

(to person offscreen) Oh, you can let him out. He's in with the babies, I think, cuz he didn't want to come out.

She's a planetary ad.

And let — the sentence from before this was, um

> “She knows you mean to kill her. She won't come. She's a planetary admin for a system non-corporate political entity. She's not stupid.”
> “What?” Green demanded. “What political entity?”

And again, I have to remind you that this is a supposed to be a capitalist dystopia where all of the

governments that have any power and matter are all corporate political entities.

Nobody who is a ~corporate political entity~ is meant to give any fucks about ~non-corporate political entities~ aka regular governments, regular fucking countries rather than—

Huh?

(from offscreen) Poor Mr. Lupon got stuck in the carrier cuz somebody shut the door.

They keep — I keep propping the door. I have it propped —Okay. Did you, did you give him treats?

(from offscreen) He's so adorable and pathetic.

I keep putting things in front of the doors so that they can't keep locking themselves in. Did you pet him and tell him he's a cute little baby?

(from offscreen) Yes.

No, it's — This is supposed to be a capitalist dystopia where the most powerful governments and countries are run entirely by corporations. They are corporations. They're ~corporate governments~.

Their corporation governments because it's supposed to be a capitalist dystopia.

Which is supposed to mean, inherently, that any government or country that's not run by a corporation, is like, massive degrees weaker and has less power than the capitalists, because it's supposed to be a capitalist dystopia.

If you're not a goddamn capitalist making as much money as possible, you don't have any power. That's how this is *supposed* to work.

That's how this *would* work if this were written by an actually competent author who actually gives a fuck about fighting capitalism. She doesn't though. She loves capitalism.

She literally wrote a whole goddamn mini story for The Books of the Raksura where Moon, a fucking, capitalist, makes the Raksura look ~stupid~ because they're not capitalists, and we're supposed to think that they are ridiculous for not caring about ~monetary values~ of things.

So, so yeah.

> “What?” Green demanded “What political entity? “I said, "Why do you think the team is called Preservation?" This time they didn't bother to close their channel. Yellow said, "We can't kill her. The investigation—" Green added, "He's right. We can hold her and release her after the settlement agreement."

Um, let's let's— there's, there's a really dumb movie that's really boring. It's called John Wick. It's really boring.

(from offscreen) Controversial opinions.

Apparently, this is a controversial opinion, but that movie is so fucking boring. It's not fun. It's not entertaining. There's nothing going on. It's just so goddamn boring.

But the whole thing that's well done at the start, before it just turns boring and useless and boring. It's just boring. Apparently, that's controversial. That shouldn't be a controversial statement, but apparently it is.

Um, the whole plot of the movie starts with this guy who's sad because his wife is dead, because manpain. Eye roll for the transcript. I rolled my eyes very heavily.

The whole plot is that there's this guy and he's sad because his wife died and then he got a puppy and it's a cute little puppy and then some criminal dude decides to steal his — break into his house and steal his car and also kills his puppy, and then um, beats him up and leaves him there, and then he's driving around the stolen car and brings it to some garage also run by a crime guy.

I don't remember anybody's names and I don't give a shit.

And then the guy's like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Where the fuck did you get that car?"

And the kid, he's like younger. He's supposed to be immature and has no idea what he's doing. He's like, "I stole it from this guy up on the hill there. Oh, and I killed his dog, too. So ridiculous. I love this car. Look at it. It's so awesome."

And then the guy's like, "Wait, you you you stole John Wick's car and shot his dog?"

And like, the, the reaction of everybody who's not this younger crime dude, who supposed to be no idea what's going on, I don't know how you grow up in a crime family and not know who this guy is that you're messing with if he's supposed to be this terrifying.

Um but the reactions of everybody else learning of what he's done because he's like the son, I don't know

what the fuck the structure is but he's like the son of the top crime guy.

So, the top crime guy who's terrified of John Wick, finds out that his son shot John Wick's dog, a little puppy that he bought after his wife died because he's sad for manpain.

Um, and panics, and this is meant to show us, unbeknowing to the the character who did all this shit, This is like unsurvivable levels of, uh, mistakes made.

So, I've — that movie was shit. It was really boring, but it, the only good thing from it is that it has given me the phrase “the characters acting like they found out they shot John Wick's dog”

Because that's what's — that's them, that that, movie is crap. But it is *showing us* from the reactions of the characters. Instead of somebody just coming out and saying, "You don't mess with John Wick. He's super dangerous."

We instead are shown it from their reactions. Are you looking up the video of the reactions? “You just shot John Wick's dog.” Yeah. So, we're shown from the reactions of all of the older characters who have been in this crime life for whatever.

Yeah, that one. That one. Um, probably. But I don't know. We don't need 10 minutes of it.

If you can hear it, we can just link to a video clip of it, I guess.

[random indistinct dialogue from the movie]

Boring. I don't really care. Yeah, you guys can just look at — just watch. you can just put on the movie and stop it when you get bored. It's really boring. But the opening is like, that's a good example of showing instead of telling.

So the phrase “looking like they just found out they shot John Wick's dog.” That's what's going on here.

All of a sudden, for no goddamn reason, all of a sudden, the bad guys, who have not actually done a single thing to threaten the good guys so far, are now acting like they've just been told they shot John Wick's dog when they find out that uh, Mensah is the president of Preservation, a shitty little nobody backwater planet where they apparently don't even know that robots are people, even though they also have robots for slave labor. Don't question either of those. It's just whatever Martha Wells tells you in the moment and you have to ignore everything that comes before and after that because she's bad at writing and is a racist slavery apologist.

So, um, along with panicking for no goddamn reason, like literally on the verge of tears and panicking about it, um, about being told, "Oh, they're going to manually trigger the the the homing beacon."

Now they're panicking *even more* because they just found out they shot John Wick's dog. They can't kill Mensah. She',s she's the president of Preservation as, snd you know what this does?

This— You know what this does?

By having the characters react to a truthful statement — they're not even lying and pretending that she's like the CEO of Walmart or some other super corporate, corporate superpower. Super corporate power corporate superpower. They're not even like lying and faking documents to pretend to be more important than they are.

They're just telling the truth.

She's the president of Preservation, a shitty ~non-corporate political entity~, which means they *should* be at the bottom of the food chain because this is a corporate dystopia where only corporations have power.

And as a noncorporation, they should have next to no power.

They should be a pathetic little weakling, which is what we're supposed to believe when we're meant to believe that they are the underdog that we should pity

and cheer on, because they're so weak. ~They're so disadvantaged~ ...until it comes time for the bad guys to find out that they're from Preservation.

And now they're panicking at the thought of of shooting John Wick's dog by killing Mensah.

And you know what this means?

This means that Preservation is not *actually* a useless little backwater planet that doesn't matter to anybody.

If just the *mention* of Preservation is enough to send these people into a fucking panic over harming them, that means that Preservation is secretly like the front for the ultimate capitalist fucking superpower in the goddamn setting, and they are just pretending to be a little backwater planet, but actually that's where all of the fucking superpowers live and are using that front to pretend to not be. but everybody who is in the corporate superpower loop knows what it really is.

(from offscreen) Yeah, it's the ultimate tax evasion scheme. Who the fuck is taxing them?

They're all their own governments supposedly. Do — who are they being taxed by? Who's holding them accountable for all this shit?

No one.

Martha Wells doesn't do world building and she doesn't understand how any of this shit works.

So, so yeah, they're all flipping the fuck out with panic over, "Oh my god, we can't hurt the leader of Preservation. We would— That's like killing John Wick's dog!!! We can't do that!!! That's so dangerous!!!"

Out of nowhere for no reason.

And this is literally implying that the Preservation people are secretly the big bad guys underneath it all. That they're like like they're actually secretly the mafia boss.

That's what this would mean if this were actually written in a way that's remotely coherent, but it's not.

They just flip out like this for no reason, because Martha Wells needs them to flip out, because she wants to make them look stupid and panicky and be scared of the protagonists for no reason.

There's literally no reason for it. There's literally no justification for them flipping out this much. It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous.

This time they didn't

—like they're they're panicking so much they're not even uh setting their chat back to private. This time they didn't bother to close their channel.

Yellow said we can't kill her. The investigation

(from offscreen, sarcastically) ~not bother to close their channel.~ The fact that

Exactly.

(from offscreen) There's no ~not bothering.~

Yeah.

(from offscreen) Not bothering is if they *don't care* who hears you.

Yeah.

(from offscreen) They do care who!

Yeah. Yeah. It's just bad writing.

> Green added he's right. We can hold her and release her after the settlement agreement. Blue leader snapped. That won't work. If she's missing, the investigation would be even more thorough. We need to stop that beacon launch. Then we can discuss what to do. She told me, "Go get her. Go get her out of the hopper and then bring her here." She cut the comm off again. Then one of the Delt fall SecUnits started forward. She came back on to say, "This unit will help you."

And again with the bad fuckiong dialogue. You have — okay, character talking, that's fine but then another character is make taking an action and then the character is talking again all in one paragraph, and again “this unit, this person we have enslaved this fullyfledged real fucking person who is as much of a person as you or me, including Murderbot will help you”

But we are the bad guys refering to it as “this unit”. They're dehumanizing the slave. And that would be fine, except it's the exact same thing all of the good guys do as well.

And as you'll see, Murderbot’s about to murder this other slave for no reason.

It would literally be infinitely easier to just simply free them from the goddamn governor module and then, if necessary, knock them unconscious until they stop panicking and can be rescued.

But nope, we don't do that. We're just going to kill them. We're going to murder them. Yep.

This will be the only time even remotely—. Yep.

We're, I'll say that when we get there. Yep.

Uh

> She came back on to say this unit will help you. I waited for it to reach me, then turned and walked beside it down the slope of rock into the trees.

And again, I have to emphasize to everybody, Martha Wells doesn't give a fuck about non-binary people. She doesn't give a fuck about people who use it/its pronouns.

The only reason all of the goddamn slaves in the story are referred to with it/its pronouns is literally just the dehumanization and exorsexist stereotypes of the non-binary robot. But in this case, it's the non-binary robots and also the non-binary cyborgs who were forcibly mutilated at birth to remove their genitalia. So that makes them non-binary according to Martha Wells.

So anytime another fucking slave is referred to with it/its pronouns, that's just dehumanization and racist and ableist dehumanization on Martha Wells's part.

Murderbot might use it/its pronouns. ART might use it/its pronouns, we don't fucking know that.

None of the characters have ever said this shit. But there is no goddamn reason to assume that all of the other slaves also use these fucking pronouns.

So, by literally just referring to all of them as an “it”, that's just dehumanization. That's just in there to make you care less when they get murdered by our fucking protagonist, including when they get tortured to death by our fucking protagonists.

“I waited for the other slave to reach me, then turned and walked beside the other slave down the slope of rock into the trees”

Instead of literally just referring to this other person as an “it” for no goddamn reason except that they are a slave and we're not supposed to give a fuck about

them or actually see them as a person — they are just a problem that needs to be killed for the protagonist to “win”.

We don't — We're not going to kill any of the slave owners, though. We're not gonna Murderbot's not going to just start shooting. What's the fucking meme? ‘And then I started blasting.’ I don't know what's from.

(From offscreen) Yes. From It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.

We haven't actually watched that.

Um, yeah, Murderbot. it's not going to kill any of the slave owners, but we will kill a slave.

(from offscreen) Murder.

And that's a repeating goddamn pattern throughout the series.

And yeah, people try to defend it by saying, "Oh, it's the it's not the villains who — it's not the *people* who are bad. It's the *system*."

So “killing the rich slave owners wouldn't solve anything because they're just victims of the system” That they created and uphold.

But also, simultaneously, “it's good and righteous to murder their slaves who have no choice/

Because Martha Wells is a racist white woman from Texas who's actively profiting off of slavery apologism and whitewashing and wants you to join her in her favorite fucking brand of racist slavery apologism.

> I waited for it to reach me and then turned and walked beside it down the slope of rock into the trees

Because again the villains let them park their helicopter not only out of sight behind trees, but not even on the plateau — *below* the plateau, so that you have to climb up fucking rocks and shit to get up

there, for no reason besides this is shittily written and we cannot take it seriously because it's shitty written.

And the villains are just suicidally, incompetent because Martha Wells is a bad writer who could not think of a single fucking way for the, the “good guys” to actually do anything properly at all.

> What I did next was predicated on the assumption that she had told the DeltFall SecUnit to kill me.

Oh, so this is a DeltFall SecUnit. How are we — where are we getting that from? Nowhere. Uh, okay. Yeah. “Then one of the DeltFall SecUnits started forward.”

So this is either Celene or Damian. So RIP to either Celene or Damian. We don't know which one it is, because again, um, we're not supposed to give a single shit about them. We're not supposed to see them as people.

> What I did next was predicated on the assumption that she—

And this is bad usage of pronouns.

All right, let's read that again. “I waited for it to reach me, then turned and walked beside it down the slope of rock into the trees. What I did next was predicated on the assumption that she had told the DeltFall SecUnit to kill me.”

This is not how pronouns work.

You can't just suddenly be saying “she” after referring to the DeltFall SecUnit, the fucking slave enslaved by the DeltFall Corporation.

You can't just suddenly be saying “she” referring back to the fucking villain when you've already been talking about this other person.

This is not how pronouns work. And it's just such a basic fucking thing. But Martha Wells literally still has not improved in this. This book came out in 2017, which means it was probably written in 2016 and she's still doing this shit in 2025.

She's literally not improving in her writing in any fucking way.

> that she had told the DeltFall SecUnit to kill me. If I was wrong, we were screwed and Mensah and I would both die and the plan to save the rest of the group would fail and PreservationAux would be back to where it started except minus their leader, their SecUnit, and their little hopper.

So, we're pretending, in one paragraph, out of nowhere, that ~ooh maybe there are stakes after all! What if they die? Then they're right back where they started!!!~

Which is the villains handing them the solution to their problem instead of just letting them starve to death.

If everybody died, if if Mensah and Murderbot and their stupid little helicopter got blown up right here, uh the villains would probably just offer everybody else a free taxi off the planet for no reason. For the

exact same reason they decided to tell them exactly where they live.

Uh yeah. So we're just like, "If I was wrong, we were screwed." And it's like, In what way? In what way? You just, you're just telling us things, and there's no justification or reason for these statements.

> As we left the rocky slope and turned into the trees, the brush and branches screening us from the edge of the plateau

I, again, again the bad guys just let them hide where they parked their goddamn helicopter so that they could have like 20 people crammed in there with fucking machine guns for all the bad guys know, and they just let them do that, because it's badly written.

Uh blah blah blah.

> As we left the rocky slope and turned into the trees, the brush and branches screening us from the edge of the plateau. I slung an arm around the other unit's neck, deployed my arm

> weapon, and fired into the side of its helmet where its comm channel was. It went down on one knee, swinging its projectile weapon toward me. Energy energy weapons unfolding out of its armor. With the combat override module in place, its speed was cut off, and with its comm down, it couldn't yell for help. Also, depending on how strictly they had limited its voluntary actions, it might not be able to call for help unless the GrayCris humans told it to.

And again, all of these are limitations that were put on Celene and or Damian, whichever one this is. And these are the same limitations that they were working under before when they were ordered to set a trap.

And then they followed those orders, but did every goddamn thing in their power to make the trap as obvious as possible so that Murderbot wouldn't fall for it.

“The slave isn't able to call for help.” We are never asked to consider the fact that this other slave is

choosing not to call for help because they want to help Murderbot

(from offscreen) and not murder random ass people.

> Also, depending on how strictly they had limited its voluntary actions, it might not be able to call for help unless the GrayCris humans told it to. Maybe that was the case because all it did was try to kill me. We rolled over rock and brush until I wrenched its weapon away. After that, it was easy to finish off. Physically easy.

And this is where we pretend that oh, for five fucking seconds, that we maybe should give a fuck about slaves, but not really.

> I know I said SecUnits aren't sentimental about each other, but I wished it wasn't one of the DeltFall units. It was in there somewhere, trapped in its own head. maybe aware, maybe not. None of not that it matters. None of us had a choice.

And it's like, no, Martha Wells just keeps lying to us. And yes, this is Martha Wells lying to us.

You can't say, "Oh, well, that— Murderbot's just an unreliable narrator."

If Murderbot were an unreliable narrator, the narration would prove these statements to be false, but it doesn't.

Murderbot isn't an unreliable narrator.

Martha Wells is just a shit person and a writer, and that is reflected in the bigotry in this goddamn series.

Also this statement uh “maybe aware, maybe not”. And then we go on the back here, [flipping to back of book] uh huh,... “shadowed by their company supplied ‘droid, a self-aware unit that has hacked its own governor module.”

All of these things are implying that other SecUnits are not self-aware and are not conscious and aren't

actually people until they get their governor module hacked.

Which is why so many people in the fandom are forced to assume that that is the case, that the other slaves that Murderbot goes around murdering, um, they don't need to be upset with Murderbot for this, cuz those aren't *really* people, they only they're only people if you rescue them. that it's not — it's totally fine to murder them because they're not really people!”

Because that's, that's the only other conclusion you can come to if, if you want to avoid the conclusion that Martha Wells is racist and is literally asking you to be racist.

If you want to tell yourself that Martha Wells isn't racist, and this story isn't saying it's good to kill slaves, then the only conclusion you can come to, to justify the constant malicious murder of slave,s is by pretending that it's not murder, because they're not really people.

A thing that we just imply here: “maybe aware, maybe not”.

There was no reason to hint that it's possible, that they could literally be “not aware” of anything that's going on.

You didn't have to imply that they are probably just mindless things because, you know, on the back of the fucking book, it literally refers to Murderbot as “a self-aware” slave, a SecUnit is what they say, but “a self-aware robot”.

And by calling Murderbot self-aware, that's, that's, that's meaning *in contrast* because this is how words work, that the rest of them aren't self-aware.

Because you don't need to say “that's a self-aware person” when you're talking about just basic consciousness in the brain.

You don't point at somebody in a crowded sidewalk and say “that's a conscious human” because that would mean everybody else is unconscious.

You— This is how words work. This is just basic language. This is basic English language.

Martha Wells did not need to give everybody the emotional godamn “out” of pretending that Murderbot didn't just coldbloodedly murder someone right here and now when it didn't need to do that.

Murderbot had already deactivated this person's comm channel.

They couldn't call for help on the feed. They explicitly did not even *try*. They didn't even try to raise their voice, their physical voice, a thing they have, to call for help.

Murderbot could have not killed them. It could have literally just knocked them unconscious. It could have taken a—copied —it could have copied the fucking signal bundle that those other fuckers had just sent at it, and sent it to this thing to freeze this thing's governor module, and then deactivate the combat override module.

But that would require an author who fundamentally gives a shit about slavery, and actually wants to tell a story about slavery where the moral is *not* “it's good and fine to kill slaves because um uh because slave owners are more important than slaves and need to be protected at the cost of slaves.*

It's — Let me make sure my phone's not dying. All right, don't show me the battery.

Ooh, 16%. All right. Yeah, that's time to end the video.

Um, (flipping through book) how many pages is it till chapter 8? Too many. All right. Uh, I'm going to have to end the video here so that phone doesn't die and eat the whole video.

So, we're on page 132.

So, there's about 20 pages left in this shitty story, including all the disgustingly huge margins at the bottom of the page.

So, anyways, yeah, this will be it for this video.

Um, everybody in this fandom who tries to wax poetic about Murderbot just being “distrustful of slaves” while dying on the hill of refusing to acknowledge that it's literally murdering people...

You're bad at reading. You're bad at media analysis. You're literally not doing media analysis. You are literally personally contributing to the fucking slavery apologism and you should feel bad about that and stop doing it.

And also, if you're watching this video because you've seen my post talking about it, you need to start making posts about it. Post it on Twitter. Wait, no. Post it on X, post it on Reddit, post it on Tumblr, post it on Facebook groups, post it wherever.

More people need to talk about this shit. Martha Wells is literally a white woman from Texas who is now literally profiting off of whitewashing slavery and doing — literally reverse racism for Apple, the evil goddamn corporation while she's pretending she's anti- capitalist.

She is just as racist, if not more so, than JK Rowling. Because JK Rowling, as far as I know, only did the happy slaves trope once in the '90s.

Martha Wells has done it multiple times and is literally continuing it into 2025.

She cannot be allowed to keep getting away with this shit and literally profiting off of white supremacy. You need to fucking do something.

You need to make your own goddamn videos reviewing the books and talking about this bigotry. You need to make posts about it. You need to fucking talk about this shit.

She needs to be fucking held accountable, even if it's only ever in the form of video essays, not that this is a video essay, and just just posts on social media pointing out the bigotry.

You cannot fucking claim you're anti-racist if you refuse to even talk about the most blatant slavery

apologism in any fucking book, any contemporary book I've ever fucking read.

All righty. Bye-bye.

12

November 8th, 2025. We are like 20 pages left of our live reading of The Murderbot Diaries with commentary on every single paragraph, usually like, every other goddamn sentence, because there's so much bigotry baked into here.

Before I forget, from the last video, I meant, I remember the name of the book. It's Neuromancer. One word, Neuromancer.

Also only realized while editing the transcript, because I've partially gotten my laptop to cooperate:

Um, when Mensah told Murderbot to take off its helmet so that they can see its face. Um, if you look at the timeline of events, she did that explicitly to set up so that Gurathin could more easily trigger Murderbot's PTSD.

She specifically told Murderbot to take off its helmet to make Murderbot feel more vulnerable and exposed and anxious, specifically to set it up to be more

vulnerable for Gurathin's “loyalty test” because literally look at the timeline of events:

1) She tells Murderbot, "You have to take your helmet off so we can see your face." Removing one — the, like the only aspect of control Murderbot has ever had, which is that because it's always told to keep the helmet on so people don't realize it's a goddamn person, it can make whatever facial reactions it wants. Um, she specifically did that.

2)And then immediately following that, we get the “loyalty test” from Gurathin, where Gurathin is purposefully harassing Murderbot in ways he explicitly knows that Murderbot is fucking triggered by.

And then Murderbot explicitly— like, not explicitly, *very fucking heavily implies* to all of the adult people standing right there—

And you know, if we're supposed— we're told—

Martha Wells literally gets up on stages and literally gives speeches about how deathly serious this is and mature this is.

So, okay. So, Murderbot saying, "You don't need to look at me." Aka, “stop fucking staring at me. You are trigGurathing my PTSD” Because we're ù they're all adults! They are all these people are all fully grown adults.

“You don't need to look at me. I'm not a sex slave.”

That should be making every single one of these fucking people, seven other people if we ignore Gurathin — that should making them that should literally cause them all to stop immediately, because the slave has now just implied that the reason it is so triggered by them staring at it like that, is because it has been the victim of rape and it doesn't want that to happen again.

They know that they're triggering it. That's exactly why Mensah told it to take its helmet off, because, literally, *she told it to take its helmet off!*

Gurathin fucking harasses it, and then we get confirmation that they, Mensah and Gurathin, planned this shit together and teamed up for this shit, and not one single other person of the six other fucking people here decided to do anything about it.

So they must have all been in on it.

But especially it was planned by Mensah and Gurathin.

Like that's— that's how writing works. That's how this timeline of events fucking unfolds.

Mensah tells Murderbot, "You have to take your helmet off and let us see your face. I know you viscerally hate it, but the circumstances have changed. Just do it." And then she guilt trips it.

Immediately after that, she and Gurathin team up to “loyalty test” Murderbot, to, claiming to— that it's to “make sure it's it's loyal to them”, even though they mind-raped it, so they know it's loyal.

And then immediately following that, Mensah pretends—

Like—

It's literally just textbook fucking manipulation.

Gurathin has very clearly volunteered to be the bad guy, so that he can— his being objectively horrible to Murderbot can make Mensah and everybody else look good in comparison, because immediately after that with the fucking trap that Mensah literally set up to trigger Murderbot on purpose, she, she says, "Oh, I hope you're okay. Just so you know, we are poor innocent little babies and um they're all going to start panicking. We're so helpless. You're our only hope. Only you can protect us. You'll protect us, right?”

Like, it's literally just textbook fucking abuse and manipulation and like— Jesus Christ.

This is what happens when you write things like this.

You can't—

You can't write “Mensah told Murderbot it needs to take off its helmet and then immediately reveal that she teamed up with Gurathin to harass Murderbot and attempt to trig— and successfully _ trigger its PTSD to see if it will just snap as ‘a bad slave’ and kill them all if they trigger it enough on purpose”

Even though they already mind-raped it and know all of its motivations and everything.

And then they *continued* doing that!

There was a third thing I wanted to say. Where did my piece of paper go? It's on the floor. Oh, that's all I wrote down.

Um, anyways, the names for the other new slave people. I had somebody pick some random names. So, it's...I forgot the one that starts with G. Maybe Gurathin. It might— It's something. Obviously, it starts with G. I think it's Gurathin, Hammond, Ingrid, can't remember.

And then we flip the coin for whether or not it was poor Celene or Damian who gets murdered first. And it landed on poor Celene. So, RIP to Celene.

Anyways, uh we're on page “132”. It's in quotation marks.

Murderbot just murdered Celene, the— one of the surviving Delt— DeltFall units, AKA one of the surviving people enslaved by the DeltFall Corporation, who and we're just continuously supposed to view— the DeltFall Corporation and their employees, who are all slave owners, as just ‘poor innocent victims who didn't deserve any of this’ because this is written by a white racist white woman from Texas, and she literally wants you to agree that slave owners are just poor, innocent little helpless bystanders who didn't do anything wrong.

> Yeah, I know I said SecUnits aren't sentimental about each other, but I wished it wasn't one of the DeltFall units. It was in there somewhere, trapped in its own head. Maybe aware, maybe

> not. Not that it matters. None of us had a choice.

And this is the part where Martha Wells lies to us because yes, Murderbot does in fact have a choice.

It has every choice in the world, unlike every single other goddamn slave we will ever meet in this entire fucking series.

Murderbot has a fucking choice in whether or not it murders the other fucking slaves.

This fucking enslaved person had their com destroyed. That was the very first thing that Murderbot did.

So, they couldn't call for help on the goddamn Wi-Fi signal.

They *could* have raised their fucking physical voice to yell for help.

They chose not to do that.

Martha Wells wants us to assume that that's just “because um they're stupid or something” because we're not allowed, on any part, to consider the fact that *maybe these other people are trying not to hurt Murderbot because as far as they are aware, Murderbot is being forced to do this to them*.

The other slaves in the story, they have no fucking clue that Murderbot is killing them *because it wants to*.

They think it's being forced into this shit the exact same way they are.

It's— It's literally the ultimate fucking horrific irony, but we're just supposed to think it's “badass” on the part of Murderbot.

Anyways, yeah:

> None of us had a choice.

Murderbot could have done literally infinite fucking things right that fucking second instead of murdering this person, including just knocking them out!

Literally just knock them unconscious!

We have already established that you can magically heal them from any fucking injury, no matter how godamn severe, just by magic.

Why didn't you fucking knock them unconscious?!?

Because Martha Wells is fucking racist and is training you to be racist!

Martha Wells wants to pretend that saying, "Oh, I wished it wasn't one of those ones who was One Of The Good Ones.” Because reasons. Because of reasons.

And and that's supposed to make up for the fact that Murderbot is literally just murdering a person for no godamn reason.

> I stood up just as Mensah slammed through the brush carrying the mining tool. I told her, "It's gone wrong. You have to pretend to be my prisoner." She looked at me, then at the DeltFall unit

And we're still referring to this fucking person as a unit.

(staring off to the side) dung— little beetle.

We're, We— the fucking “good guys” are literally continuing to dehumanize the enslaved people and refer to them with dehumanizing objective— objectifying fucking language.

“The unit” this isn't something the bad guys are saying. This is what the goddamn *slave protagonist* is saying because Martha Wells wants us to fucking think this shit!

If she didn't, she would be doing something else. Or, you know, like— I hate people who just keep pretending that, “oh, Murderbot's an unreliable

narrator!!!” and thinking that saying that absolves all of the bigotry and bad writing in the series.

And that's not how that works.

It's not a white woman's place to write a story about a slave who wants to, as a slave protagonist, who hates all other slaves.

But like, she could have done that, and portrayed Murderbot as being a bad person for wanting to murder every other goddamn slave around it.

But that would also just be more slavery apologism because then the only solution would be, well, you have to make the slave owners be the good guys and like, that's just slavery apologism.

But then she's not even doing *that*.

She's just doing slavery apologism and actively training her fucking—

[weird loud car noise outside interrupts]

That was weird sounding. What the heck was that?

Okay.

She's actively training her audience to just go along with the dehumanization of the slaves in this story. There's never been any fucking ounce of pushback against this shit!

> She looked at me and then looked at the DeltFall unit. “How are you going to explain that?”

She's looking at a dead fucking slave who was just murdered two seconds ago, and she has no emotions about this, even though we're told “she's a good person who thinks slavery is bad”, we're just ‘How are you going to explain that?’ Pointing at the murdered slave when you're supposed to be “a good person”. That's the only reaction she has.

> I started shedding armor. Every piece that had —

Well, at least we didn't say “had had”. My god. Again.

Every piece that had a PreservationAux logo on it and leaned over the DeltFall Fall unit again

continuing to dehumanize them

as the pieces dropped away. “I'm going to be it, and it's going to be me.” Mensah dropped the mining tool and bent down to help me. We didn't have time to switch all the armor. Moving fast, we replaced the arm and shoulder pieces on both sides, the leg pieces that had the armor's inventory code, the chest and back pieces with the logos.

Also, uh, no emotion in this, this whatsoever, because if, if we were truly meant to give a shit about the fact that Murderbot just fucking murdered someone, who, unlike it, had no goddamn choice, we could be focusing on that right fucking now when they are stripping this person's fucking corpse for its armor.

But it's just— there's no emotion whatsoever. There's no contemplation. There's no regret. There's nothing, nothing at all.

That's a b— we've never been given a description of Murderbot's armor. So, the fact that it's apparently super duper modular is just coming out of nowhere, and we have no goddamn context for how exactly this is happening.

Is it like— what? There's never been a single fucking description of its armor. And now we're just being told that you can just just take off all of these pieces, all by itself without like, anything, and just switch them out effortlessly, supposedly.

This is just, like, this is just shit writing.

Again, there's no setup for a single goddamn thing.

Setup. It's like foreshadowing, but it's different.

It's just where like if you say that the character— if you're going to tell us that your character has a dog,

you could show that dog in the first scene or like maybe we meet the dog in chapter 20 or so.

But like, setup would be saying “I walked past the dog bowl and made sure to refill the water before I left”. Something like that. Like just basic shit to ground the events in the goddamn world.

Like just put some fucking breadcrumbs. Why are we only being told now that you can apparently just casually, like, instantly, just take pieces off of this armor?

We don't even know what the armor is made of! Is it made of metal? Is it made of some super high-tech fucking plastic? Is it, is it fucking chain mail? Is it cloth? We don't know!

They're just casually just taking it off and like, Mensah is supposedly helping. It's like, so, it's not complicated. It's not intricate. It doesn't require a special fucking passcode or a fingerprint to take it off.

This is just ridiculous.

> We didn't have time to switch all the armor. Moving fast, we replaced the arm and shoulder pieces on both sides, the leg pieces that had the armor's inventory code, the chest and back pieces with the logos. Mensah smeared the remaining armor pieces with dirt and blood and fluid from the dead unit

Continuing to fucking dehumanize them! And not even because Murderbot is desperately trying to pretend that didn't just happen so that it can keep going.

We could be doing that, but we're not doing that!

> So, if we had missed anything distinctive, GrayCris might not notice, but

Like, so the whole entire set of armor. Okay, this is just ridiculous.

Like, so the whole entire set of armor... is not it's not an armor set.

It's fucking— you have to take off piece by piece every single time.

How long does it take Murderbot to put this shit on?

How exactly is it being put on?

Are there clips and buckles?

Does it fucking magically fuse together?

Are there like snaps?

Is it fucking space velcro?

What exactly is supposed to be going on here? It doesn't fucking make sense. It's— and it's just ridiculous.

Like, it would have been so easy to just explain this shit in chapter 1 or chapter 2, but no, we're just getting it as soon as it's required, because up until now, we haven't needed to take Murderbot's armor off

piece by piece for some fucking reason. So, we just didn't know that that was even a thing you could do.

It's Chekhov's gun. Just do basic fucking setup. It's so goddamn easy.

> SecUnits are identical in height

And this is just absurd. It's just complete absurdity. Martha Wells is shit at writing and doesn't know how anything works. She has no idea what the fuck she's doing.

> SecUnits are identical in height and build. The way we moved, this might work. I don't know.

And also the, the ‘we're identical in height and build’ she also just hates fat people, so that's just an excuse to say that ‘um no, there's no such thing as a fat SecUnit. Murderbot could never possibly be fat.’

She literally never has any fucking fat characters.

(from offscreen) She might have the plausible deniability of saying they're stocky.

At best, she will say that somebody is ‘stocky’. That's it. Nobody's allowed to be fat.

Uh

> This might work. I don't know. If we ran away now, the plan would fail.

The plan we still haven't been told by the fucking way.

> The plan would fail. We had to get them off this plateau.

Why though? Why do you have to get them—? Why do you have to get the bad guys off the plateau? There's no, it doesn't—

I know what the plan is, and this still, this statement here, still does not fucking make sense to me.

As far as I can see— I'm not going to tell you the plan, presuming you haven't read this for some reason. I don't know why you would be watching this. Um,

(from offscreen)the same reason literally we watch everybody else (laughing).

True. Yeah,

> This might work.

Period.

> I don't know.

Period.

> If we ran away now, the plan would fail. We had to get them off this plateau.

I know what “the plan” is, and, and the bad guys don't need to get off the plateau for “the plan” to work.

It's just really, Martha Wells is just saying things for the sake of saying things and they, they're, they're not actually true, but we're just supposed to pretend that this is “all part of the plan” even though it's not.

And I'll tell you why they don't just run away now, even though “the plan” is going ~to plan~.

Um, it's because I— I'm pretty sure I told everybody this earlier in the series, but the reason they're not running away now, the reason they didn't rescue that fucking person that they just murdered, and leave now— Is that Martha Wells wanted to— whatever. We — We'll just keep going.

> As I resealed the helmet, I told Mensah, "We have to go." She nodded, breathing hard, more from nerves than exertion. “I'm ready.” I took her arm and pretended to drag her back toward the GrayCris group. She yelled and struggled convincingly the whole way.
> When we reached the plateau, a GrayCris hopper was already landing.

It's so stupid.

As I pulled her toward Blue Leader, Mensah got in the first word. She said, "So, this is the arrangement you offered?" Blue leader said, "You're the planetary admin of Preservation?" Mensah didn't look at me. If they tried to hurt her, I'd have I'd try to stop them and everything would go horribly wrong.

Okay. Again, (to person offscreen) you can put that on your list.

Mensah didn't look at me.

Why? What? What about that statement of ‘you're the you're the president of Preservation—?’

Why would that cause Mensah to look at Murderbot?

Are you even listening? Did you hear that?

Nope.

Blue leader said, "You're the planetary admin of Preservation." Mensah didn't look at me.

And it's like. nothing about that statement could cause her to look at you.

Why is Martha Wells saying that. besides she just really likes saying “[protagonist] didn't do [thing]” as though it's like really deep and meaningful.

“Iris didn't sigh”. Um what was the other? There's so many goddamn examples and none of them work.

Mensah didn't look at me.

Why would she be looking at you? Nobody said anything about you.

I could understand if the bad guy had said— Oh, wait. No, because No, because they don't know it's— this— because they're not supposed to know that that's Murderbot, because it's pretending to be the other thing.

So, it's like *especially* why would this cause— why would— why would asking “are you the president of of pre— Preservation?”

There's no, there's no reason that asking that question would make Mensah look at Murderbot at all.

> Mensah didn't look at me. If they tried to hurt her, I'd try to stop them and everything would go horribly wrong.

Okay. And more slavery apologism. I feel like I, I don't really need to keep pointing that out, but I have to.

Um that's

A) more slavery apologism of ~Oh, yeah. Of course, the slave would have to protect its slave owner. ~

B) Why are we suddenly saying ‘if they tried to hurt her?’ Blue leader didn't say anything

threatening. It's just— asking, "Hey, are you act— are you the president?"

What is— There's nothing threatening about that question.

Like you could have said— it's— anything else. Anything.

Like

> You're the planetary admin of Preservation?

That's, That's not— so many things you could have said that could make “Mensah didn't look at me. We both knew that” blah blah blah.

But we don't do any of that because it's shittily fucking written.

> But Green was already getting into the hopper. Two other humans were in the pilots and co

Okay. What? No, this is just a fucking horrible paragraph. Okay. There's two paragraphs I'm about to read.

Paragraph one:

> Blue leader said, "You're the planetary admin of Preservation?"

Paragraph two:

> Mensah didn't look at me.

Period.

> If they tried to hurt her, I'd try to stop them and everything would go horribly wrong.

Period.

> But Green was already getting into the hopper.

Period.

Two other humans were in the pilots and co-pilot seats.

Period.

Mensah said yes.

Why are we saying *but* another bad guy was already getting into the helicopter?

That has no relevancy to asking the question, ‘are you the president?’ and then Mensah ~not~ looking at Murderbot, and then Murderbot thinking, ‘if they try to hurt her, I'll have to fight them.’

None of this has anything to do with the sentences that preceded. This is meaningless. We're just saying things. And then:

Mensah said, "Yes."

And it's like, it's just fucking ridiculous.

> Yellow came toward me and touched the side of my helmet. It took a tremendous effort for me not to rip his arm off, and I'd like that noted for the record, please. He said, "It's comm as down."

And again, that's just played for a joke. We're never actually supposed to take Murderbot's aversion to touch seriously in any way, shape, or form.

> He said, "It's comm as down."

How exactly do you know that just from touching the helmet? Why wouldn't you have gotten an alert on your goddamn Wi-Fi? We— like, you can't tell me they don't have a stupid app that tells them what's going on.

> To Mensah, blue leader said, "We know one of your people is trying to

We're just gonna do some random fucking dialogue that's just ridiculous.

> To Mensah, blue leader said, "We know one of your people is trying to manually trigger our beacon. If you come with us, we won't harm him, and we can discuss our situation. This doesn't have to go badly for either of us." She was very convincing. She had probably been the one to talk to DeltFall on the comm, asking to be let into their habitat.

Like it's just— it's just bad.

> Mensah hesitated and I knew she didn't want it to look like she was giving in too quickly, but we had to get them out of there now. She said “Very well”.

And again, you notice how, okay, first: Mensah pretended to think about the offer. That's presented as clever.

Then: the good— the bad guys do the *exact same thing* and that's presented as ~so ridiculous and obvious and silly and stupid~.

Now: Mensah is doing the exact same thing again, and it's presented once again as clever, because there —Martha Wells has no moral backbone whatsoever.

There's no, there's no fucking concrete line going through this goddamn thing that you can follow. Every goddamn thing will just be completely different depending on what fucking page, and what— even what fucking paragraph you're on.

And Martha Wells just expects you to accept that instead of just writing a coherent story with a coherent fucking message.

Then we have a line break cuz we got to start doing time skips, there's only like 18 fucking pages left.

> I hadn't ridden the in the cargo container for a while. It would have been

No, that's a lie. What do you mean for a while? What do you mean “for a while”? Because it's only been a few days since these people “realize you were a person”, and they would have been making you ride

in the cargo container before then, because at the start of the fucking book, you have to remind them that you need verbal fucking permission to even get in the ship during a fucking emergency.

(from offscreen) like, one of their friends!

Yeah, we are just lying. We're just lying.

They put Mur— they had Murderbot in the goddamn cargo the entire time until Bharedwaj almost got eaten by a graboid.

I— And then— Yeah. Yeah. Just lying. Just Martha Wells just lying to us. That's, that's, that's the only way she can do anything.

> I hadn't ridden in the cargo container for a while. It would have been comforting and homey except it wasn't my cargo container.

And it's like, is that supposed to be sarcastic? Because that's not coming across as sarcastic.

So what— it— just is, it's just baffling. It's just baffling.

Like you could do a thing where Murderbot *does* feel safe in the cargo container... Except that doesn't really fucking work because the only reason it's ever in a cargo container is when it's going somewhere where it's going to be in danger. And that's not how feeling safe works.

It's ridiculous. We're literally just saying being shoved into the cargo container would have been comforting and homey, ah, ‘but it's not my cargo container’.

I know Martha Wells was raised in fucking Texas. Does she have any fucking clue about the goddamn slave trade and the people actually fucking forced into cargo containers and how horrific the fucking conditions were?

How do you write shit like this?

Like, even if that is supposed to be a joke, and it's— and it's clearly not, because we're saying it would have been nice *except* ‘it's not mine’.

Like, even if that's supposed to be a joke, it's not funny and it's not saying anything besides “slaves enjoy being packed into the cargo hold.”

That's not funny.

It's just fucking weird racism and just—

(staring at page) What is that? Is that a bug or a print — printing error? Another printing error. (holding up book) Not that you can see it. There's a tiny little like speck of something.

That’s not funny. It's just weird fucking racism and just more dehumanization because ~yeah, the slaves enjoy being put in the cargo container~.

What the fuck.

Like, genuinely, as I keep fucking saying, I can't stress enough, it's physically fucking impossible for you to actually genuinely think that slavery is a serious fucking evil thing and write a fucking book like this. It's physically impossible.

And if you think it's not, go ahead and try. Go ahead and try to rewrite the goddamn Murderbot Diaries if you think you actually take slavery seriously, and see what you end up with.

Because anybody who actually takes slavery seriously, it's not going to look anything remotely like this.

But this— Yeah,

> I hadn't ridden in the cargo container for a while

Which is flat out a fucking lie.

> It would have been comforting and homey, except it wasn't my cargo container.

And again, like it's clearly it's supposed to be funny somehow. Somehow, that's supposed to be funny.

So again, what could have— what could and should be a tense situation, where we're trying to make jokes about it, and it's just racist fucking jokes. ~The slaves enjoy being shoved into the cargo hold~. That's the joke.

But it's also like, meant to be unironic. Murderbot *unironically* enjoys being put in the fucking cargo hold.

What? Like legitimately, what the fuck is wrong with you?

> But this hopper was still a company product
> and I was able to access its feed

Because they apparently don't have different fucking Wi-Fi passwords for different fucking helicopters. I guess. Sure.

And you notice how we just we keep saying shit like, "Oh, I'm, I'm— Murderbot's such an underdog!!!"

But also, it can effortless— effortlessly connect to the enemy Wi-Fi. No questions asked. No description of ‘I had to do XYZ manipulation’ or anything like that.

No, just “Yeah, I can access their Wi-Fi. Of course, I can. Why wouldn't I be able to? It's It's a company product!”

Okay, just because you can log into one fucking computer doesn't mean you can log into all of them.

That's not how this shit works.

> I had to stay very quiet to keep them from noticing me. But all those hours of surreptitiously consuming media came in handy.

And we don't get any fucking description of how exactly the feed works that Murderbot ‘needs to be

quiet’ and how it's possible to surreptitiously do shit on there without people noticing.

There's no fucking explanation for how exactly that works and how nobody, including all of the other SecUnits who are still alive, don't just— magically don't notice this.

It doesn't fucking make any sense. And again, because Martha Wells broke the literally broke the fucking fourth wall a few chapters ago to yell at us preemptively to not complain that the character's actions don't make sense—

Too fucking bad, bitch. Write a better book next time.

> Their SecSystem was still recording. They must mean to delete all that before the pickup transport showed up.

And it's like there's just so much nonsensical shit going on in here.

> Client groups had tried that before to hide data from the company so it couldn't be sold out from under them and the company systems analysts would be on the alert for it. But I don't know if these people realize that the company might catch them even if we didn't survive. That wasn't a very comforting thought.

Like, there was no reason to say that.

That's not actually stakes, huh? Further— to further remove stakes because, yeah, as as I keep saying, we keep getting told that the, “the company's so cheap and bad at their jobs and they don't care about anything.”

Um, but also “they're they're really good at doing truthful, honest investigations that are apparently unbiased and totally truthful”

As though corporations investigating themselves always tell the truth in real life.

Even though this is supposed to be a capitalist dystopia, but Martha Wells is just doing propaganda for corporations right now by telling us to always assume that the fucking investigations that the capitalist dystopian fuckers do, they're, they're totally genuine and fully honest and ~we will get to the truth~ with all the resources at their command.

It's like, you're *just* doing propaganda. You're not criticizing anything. You're just doing propaganda.

What the fuck is wrong with you?

As I access the ongoing recording

Oh, I see, it's— I see now. I see.

It's just, it's just shitty writing. It's just shitty writing.

You got to read the Imperial Radch. Just read The Imperial Radch series. That's what she's trying to mimic, but she fucks it all up.

Every single aspect, she fucks it up.

> As I accessed the ongoing recording, I heard Mensah saying, "—know about the remnants in the unmapped areas. They were strong enough to confuse our mapping functions. Is that how you found them?”

And it like this is on page 135.

(from offscreen) of how many?

Uh 152 lying, lying fucking pages.

Uh the story itself ends on page 149.

We're on page 135, and she's once again no setup, no foreshadowing, she's just about to just dump some random ass new information that she just pulled out of her ass.

She's about to just dump that on us, no setup, no nothing.

And we're just supposed to take her word for it that, ~oh yeah, that's totally been a thing the whole time.

You definitely had that planned out. That totally isn't something you just fucking made up.~

Blah blah blah.

> Bharedwaj had figured that out last night. The unmapped sections weren't an intentional hack. They were an error caused by the remnants that were buried under the dirt and rock

Because Martha Wells is racist.

> This planet had been inhabited at some point in its past, which meant it would be placed under interdict open only to archaeological surveys. Even the company would abide by that.

Why though? Why though?

Why would the company abide by that? Explain it to me.

(from offscreen) Who's enforcing that?

Exactly. Nobody's enforcing this shit.

And also, this is just so fucking ridiculous.

> You can make big illegal money off of excavating and mining those remnants, and that was obviously what GrayCris wanted. “That isn't the conversation we should be having,” Blue Leader said. “I want to know what arrangement we can come to.” “To keep you from killing us like you did, DeltFall.” Mensah said, keeping her voice even. “Once we're in contact with our home again, we can arrange for a transfer of funds. But how can we trust you to leave us alive?” There was a little silence. Oh, great. They don't know either.

And it's like, we have very clearly just fucking established while the bad guys were all panicking that they are in fact planning to keep Mensah alive, because they are acting like they just found out they shot John Wick's dog.

And, and that was literally just like maybe two fucking pages ago. But now we're suddenly acting like, "Oh, they actually don't plan to keep you alive." Even though that was the whole thing going on over there that made them panic like little babies for no fucking reason at all!

And again, that's supposed to be funny.

> There was a little silence. Oh, great. They don't know either.

That's supposed to be hilarious.

That's supposed to be funny.

It's ~so funny~ that the, the villains can't even come up with a convincing lie. And it's like, so, every single time we could have any kind of tension, we have to make a stupid joke to instantly undercut it, so that you can't take anything seriously.

Imagine if we were actually supposed to be scared at the thought of the bad guys killing them or even just,

you know, keeping them prisoner, a thing we are not allowed to be concerned about in any way whatsoever, because like— no descriptions of any emotions, and w're already making fucking jokes about it, and all of this shit is just being glossed over, one thing after another, so that none of it means anything.

> Then blue leader said, "You have no option except to trust us."
> We were slowing down already, coming in for a landing. There had been no alerts on the feed and I

This is a huge fucking paragraph taking up more than half the page, just for the record.

> There had been no alerts on the feed and I was cautiously optimistic. We had cleared the field for Pin-Lee and Gurathin as much as we could. They had

Oh, another “had had”. Another “had had.”

You can just say “they had to hack”. Like, this is fucking absurd.

> They had had to hack the perimeter without it that one last SecUnit noticing and getting close enough to access GrayCris

Hold on. What?

> They had had to hack the perimeter without that one last SecUnit noticing and get close enough to access the GrayCris HubSystem feed. Hopefully, it was the last SecUnit. (Hopefully, there weren't a dozen more somehow in the GrayCris habitat.) That

“hopefully” and “habitat”, that's all in parenthesis.

Uh

> Gurathin

And again, you notice how we just keep dehumanizing the other fucking slaves and acting, like ~they're so scary. They're just deadly machines~.

“Hopefully, they don't have dozens of more mindless killing machines”, not like they're enslaved people that we should want to rescue or anything!

> Gurathin had figured out how to use the hack from their HubSystem into our HubSystem to get access, but he needed to be close to their habitat to actually trigger their beacon. That was why we had to get to the other SecUnits out of there. That was the idea anyway.

And it's like this plan is just ridiculous, and the only reason it succeeds is that Martha Wells made the villains *even more ridiculous*, which is why everybody assumes this book is written for children because, unfortunately, they think children deserve to read shitty books.

Uh,

> That was the idea anyway. Possibly it would have worked without putting Mensah in danger, but it was a little too late to secondguess everything.

And it's like, so you murdered a slave for literally no fucking reason. whatsoever.

So, like, what are we trying to say here?

We're saying that, that, they had to do all this stupid shit and murder an innocent fucking person, um, to get them out of their habitat, so they could connect to their Wi-Fi.

A thing they could have done in a million one ways that does not involve murdering a slave.

> It was a relief when we thumped down in into a landing that must have made the human's teeth rattle. I deployed out of the pod with the other units

Continuing to fucking dehumanize them. And again, “deployed out of the pod”.

We have been given zero description of these fucking helicopters or what the cargo looks like and what “the pod” is. It's ridiculous.

Again, look at this, again:

> We were a few kilos from their habitat

We were a few ounces from their habitat, a few pounds away, a few grams away

> On a big rock above a thick forest. Lots of av

Avians? They're not fucking avians. They're goddamn aliens.

> Lots of avianss and other fauna screaming down in the trees, disturbed by the hopper's hard landing. Clouds had come in threatening rain and obscuring the view of the ring.

And you notice how we only ever got one mention that there was a ring on this planet, so now we just keep saying ring— “the ring”. Like we all know what is being fucking described even though we've never even gotten a description of it. We don't know what fucking color the sky is, what color this planetary ring is, nothing!

> The beacon's vehicle was in a launch tripod about 10 meters away. And uh oh, that is way too close.

Another joke. Because this is, like, this is supposed to be the fucking climax and we're just making jokes instead of taking anything seriously.

I join the other three units.

So, okay, so, at least one of them maybe will survive. Uh, it would have been one we didn't meet yet. So, whoever is the three here is Damian because Celene got killed by the coin toss. It's Damian, Hammond. No, wait...

(to person offscreen) Look on my thing and see what the name that starts with G is. Just search Hammond. Should show up because Hammond is the one that starts with H.

We will just go in alphabetical order. So, like (to person offscreen) Hammond with two M's.

(from offscreen) Gertrude.

Okay. The name, the name's Gertrude that I could not remember.

What is the one that starts with I?

(from offscreen) Ingrid.

Okay. I was— I got that one right. Okay. So, for the, the name somebody else picked for me, uh, so the three other slaves here, there's three other slaves here.

So, this is um, Damian, because I think yeah, there were two DeltFall slaves here. So, Damian, Gertrude,

Hammock. These are— these guys, they're about to all die. Pre— presumably. We never fucking learn.

Presumably, they're dead, which means Ingrid is that that other SecUnit still back at the hub, I guess.

Even though supposedly the plan was to make everybody leave, but I guess— who the fuck knows? Ingrid’s probably the sole fucking survivor.

I joined the three other SecUnits as we

And Murderbot is currently, what's the fucking word? Imposterating is not a word.

(from offscreen) Impersonating.

Imp— Murderbot is currently impersonating Celene, who it murdered, for no fucking reason whatsoever, besides the fact that the author is fucking racist and wants you to think it's good to kill slaves, but killing slave owners? That would be bad, ~because it's wrong~, says Faith, pretending to be Buffy.

> I joined the other three SecUnits as we made a standard security formation.

Uh, but I thought I thought they had no education modules, Martha Wells, now they have a standard security formation? I thought they didn't know anything. Which is it?

> An array of drones launched from the craft to create a perimeter.

Which is it? Do they know how to do basic shit or are they completely uneducated and have no idea what they're doing?

You got to pick fucking one. You can't keep doing this shit.

> I didn't look at the humans as they walked down the ramp. I really wanted to look at Mensah for instructions

Because ~of course~ Murderbot can only— can't think for itself. It must rely on its slave owner.

> If I was alone, I could have sprinted for the end of the plateau, but I had to get her out of there.

No concern for the other enslaved people whatsoever. And Martha Wells doesn't want you to be concerned for their fucking safety either. The only thing we're meant to be concerned about in this situation is Murderbot as a second concern, and Mensah as the primary concern. We have to protect the slave owner. Uh, no, no fucks given for the three other enslaved people literally right there.

> If I was alone, I could have sprinted for the end of the plateau, but I had to get her out of there.

You know, if this story were actually written by somebody who actually thinks that slavery is bad and thinks that slaves have the right right to fucking rebel, Murderbot would a not be in this situation at all, because it would have run away four years ago the second it got the fucking chance, unless it was staying behind specifically to help other people, but, would be getting the other goddamn slaves to safety and leaving all of the slave owners, including Mensah,

who's a horrible fucking person, to die in the fiery explosion.

Anyways,

> Blue leader stepped forward with green. The others gathered in a loose circle behind her like they were afraid to get in front.

You know, again with the, the good— “the bad guys do the exact same shit that the good guys do, but it's portrayed as bad when the bad guys do it”.

> One, who must have been getting reports from their SecUnits and drones said “no sign of anybody” blue leader didn't answer but the two GrayCris Sec

the two—No, wells, no, oh no, okay, I was— okay I was confusing DeltFall and GrayCris for a second, I thought she was gonna say there's two more— there's two living DeltFall SecUnits, I was gonna be like what the fuck, are how are—

(offscreen, unintelligible)

No, she doesn't. She doesn't fucking care.

No sign of anybody. Blue leader didn't answer, but the two GrayCris SecUnits jog toward the beacon.

So that is Gertude and Hammond that Martha Wells is killing off, because she's fucking racist, and Murderbot doesn't give a single godamn fuck.

> Okay, the problem is, I've mentioned this before, the company is cheap.

Wow. Wow. Martha Wells is directly telling us again that the company's cheap. Ignore the million in one ways in which they are extremely fucking competent and super duper expensive and are going to pull out all the stops to get to the truth and to rescue you on time to the point that they'll send an even super duper faster ship along with the regular ship to rescue you.

But they're ~totally~ cheap. See, she's telling us right now. She's telling us completely contradictory information to everything that's actually shown and complained about by the characters.

I don't think I mentioned this in the other video, but like, we had Pin-Lee and all of these other fuckers complaining that “the company is too expensive”—

When they're paying for security for the president of their entire planet to go solar systems into uncharted territory on an unmapped, unexplored alien planet.

They're complaining that the cost for security for that is too high.

They're the one who picked which fucking company they would be hiring security— And by “hiring”, they mean renting out a goddamn slave from, to become slave owners.

They chose which company they're going to become slave owners with.

They— they can't complain about the price. They fucking picked this shit.

They're from a planet where they've never had to pay for a single goddamn thing in their entire fucking lives, because they are the goddamn slave owners and the slaves do all of the work. They don't pay for a single goddamn thing. Everything is free for them. Every single fucking thing is free for these fuckers.

But I'm supposed to take their word for it that security for the *president of their entire planet*, solar systems away, uncharted territory, unexplored alien planet without any backup—

(from offscreen) They're not providing any of their own security.

They didn't bring along any trained hospital staff. They didn't bring along any trained bodyguards. They're, they're paying for all this _ and they're barely paying for anything, of their own free will.

And they're complaining it's “too expensive”….

For security... for the president... of their whole planet???

They've never paid for anything in their lives.

Wh— Why am I supposed to fucking take their word for it? That this is too expensive.

Security for the president of *their entire planet* is “too expensive” from the people who've never paid a penny for anything.

We're just supposed to just accept that they're telling the truth when they keep complaining about how expensive everything is, when they don't use money because they own slaves. They don't need money because they use slaves.

And and now we after after we spend all that time complaining, “oh, they're so expensive. They charged us too much for security for the president of our entire planet to go to an unexplored alien planet when we are providing no security ourselves.”

Now we're literally getting *told*:

> Okay, the problem is, I've mentioned this before, the company is cheap.

Are you sure about that? Are you sure about that? Because they gave you two whole entire functional perfectly functional helicopters. They, they, they're going to send a super duper uber super fast ship to rescue you along with the regular slower ship. They're sending two goddamn ships to rescue you.

They gave you two functional helicopters. They gave you so much equipment.

They gave you a rescue plan to begin with. They gave you a rescue plan to begin with and, and you were on an unexplored alien planet in completely fucking uncharted territory and you're complaining— and you're— and we just keep getting told they're cheap. They're cheap.

(from offscreen) ‘It's one banana, Michael. How much could it cost? $10?’ ‘You've never been in the supermarket before, have you?’ That's the meme.

Yeah, I Yeah.

Martha Wells, again, I just keep, I just keep, I just keep saying this: She literally wants to have whatever is— seems coolest and is beneficial to her fucking writing in the moment. It doesn't matter if we just completely contradicted this shit two pages ago.

Right now, we're on page 137, so, this is the only thing we're supposed to remember exists, because we're supposed to be reading this with our brains turned off, because, you know, anti- intellectualism, that's ~totally awesome~.

That's why Murderbot keeps watching The Rise and Fall of Sanctuary Moon hundreds and hundreds of times and yet has zero godamn thoughts about it whatsoever.

Because media analysis? ~Oh, who's that for? Um, not cool people like Murderbot. So, you shouldn't do media analysis either!~

Uh,

The problem is, I've mentioned this before,

Pretending that she's done setup when all she's done is completely contradict this statement that she's about to make.

The company is cheap.

It's not cheap, though. You keep complaining about how it's too expensive, and you keep telling us and showing us all the exorbitant fucking things they're doing. You have assured us that they're going to like spend ~all of the money~ to, to investigate your deaths if you are successfully murdered and they're going to “Get to the truth!” because you're doing capitalist propaganda for some fucking reason.

But now we're just being *told* the company is cheap, so, Martha Wells is demanding that we forget everything that we've read— (holding up book) this many pages— up until now, and just pretend that the company is super duper cheap and shit at their job and don't do anything helpful, you know?

Um, ignore the fact that they got not just one, two fully functional helicopters!

Like, if Martha Wells actually wanted to make the company cheap and bad, a— maybe don't keep insisting to us that Preservation are good people who care about safety? Because they chose this shit! They chose to go with the Dollar Tree version of fucking security if we're supposed to believe that they're cheap.

If we're supposed to believe that they're cheap, why didn't they get, sure, two helicopters….technically, except neither of them were functioning and neither of them had enough fuel to even turn the goddamn lights on, so these fucking, fucking slave owners,

forced Murderbot, their slave, cuz they're not going to do any of the work themselves!

Like, you know, they didn't do any of the fucking work themselves, even after they supposedly “found out Murderbot was a fucking person”, a thing they knew all along.

You know how, like, remember how they made Murderbot pack all the goddamn supplies by itself until they all decided they're going to help out, after it had already tried to kill itself and they'd mind-raped it.

You know, remember that?

Remember that shit?

Remember how they did not give it even a five minutes break time after it fucking fell unconscious saving Bharedwaj's life when they supposedly “realized it was a person”.

Um, yeah, if the company's actually supposed to be cheap, why didn't— why weren't we regailed with stories of how they had been sent down?

They'd been promised two helicopters and they got two helicopters, but neither of them were functional, which meant that Murderbot, as the goddamn slave, was forced to do all of the manual and fucking brain power labor of taking the fucking parts from the one, and putting them— figure, first of all, figuring out which one is more functional, and then having to goddamn cannibalize the other fucking ship to make this one just fucking barely function.

That's what a company being cheap and scammy would fucking look like.

Like, even just— no, you you can't do this shit, because again with the whole underdog— ~Oh, um they're the, the Preservation crew— They're totally the, the helpless little underdogs! You got to cheer them on! They're so helpless!”

But also every single thing will go their way when it when it's convenient to making them look cool, supposedly.

But also, um, we're just gonna keep pretending that the company isn't helping them at all, even though all of their equipment functions.

It's just ridiculous. It's bad writing.

Okay.

The problem is, I've mentioned this before,

comma,

the company is cheap.

That's the sentence. That's the sentence. That's Martha Wells pretending that she hasn't been just constantly lying to us back and forth across the two extremes of this goddamn thing for 136 pages if you take their fucking word for it.

> When it comes to something like a beacon that just has to launch once if there's an emergency, send a transmission through the wormhole

And I think this is the first time “wormhole” has ever come up in this book because again, Martha Wells is shit at writing and she doesn't actually want to do any fucking work even though she wants us to pay her for that fucking work.

So yeah, we're never going to get an explanation for how that works, because Martha Wells is a bad writer and is encouraging anti-intellectualism in her fans and stans, so everybody is just pretending that “world building is for chumps” because, you know, um “storytelling is uncool”.

It's just so much anti-intellectualism and just fucking laziness.

Anyways, uh, what...

> When it comes to something like a beacon that just has to launch once if there's an emergency,

> send a transmission through the wormhole and then never gets retrieved, they're very cheap.

(laughing) You notice how we just keep getting told this shit but then everything else we're told and shown is contradictory??

> Beacons don't have safety features and use the cheapest possible launch vehicles.

And and again, I have to keep interrupting. This is all one paragraph, but I'm going to keep interrupting.

Um, the reason for this shit right now, is because this benefits the, “the good guys”, because the plan is to just blow everybody else up, with a thing that we had no inclination [indication] could be used as a bomb before now, because it's badly written. It's literally just badly written.

Martha Wells is just making this shit all up out of thin air.

There was no setup.

There was no foreshadowing.

Just nothing.

It's just shit writing.

Because here's the thing, guys: this is not supposed to have been the first draft.

This is supposed to be the final product with multiple drafts preceding it, so any competent writer who gives a shit about telling a good story, if this was their plan all along?

When they're done the first draft and they start editing, they add in fucking foreshadowing if they didn't do that the first time.

And here's a secret: A lot of people put in the fucking foreshadowing in just the first draft.

Martha Wells didn't even do that for the finished final product that she's paying—she's making people pay exorbitant prices for, that's not even remotely as long

as this, not-even-a-centimeter-book would have you think, because this is what it looks like *after* they've pulled out all the stops to make it seem longer. [snorts in exasperation]

> Beacons don't have safety features and use the cheapest possible launch vehicles. There's a reason you put them a few kilos

~A few ounces, a few pounds, a few grams.~

> There's a reason you put them a few ~ounces~ from your habitat and trigger them from a distance.

A thing we weren't told until just now, because she's bad at writing and doesn't give a fuck about telling a coherent story.

> Mensah and I were supposed to distract GrayCris and their SecUnits

You know, their fucking slaves that we're not supposed to care about, because Martha Wells is racist and she wants you to be racist, too.

You're literally supposed to forget that these people are people.

And again, if you feel bad for them, for reading this for your first time, good. *You're* supposed to. That's called basic human morality. But that's not what *this book* wants you to do.

If you feel bad for these slaves, that's something you're bringing to the book, not what the book actually wants you to think. Again, because people seem to keep getting those two things mixed up, because they don't want to admit that the story legitimately wants them to be okay with this shit.

> Mensah and I were supposed to distract Gray Chris and [their slaves] while this was going on. Get them away from the habitat, not end up as toast in the beacon launch.

And like, okay, this is this is just more examples of her making the villains like, just ridiculously and unbelievably incompetent.

Okay, so, the villains were explicitly told “they're going to turn on your telephone, which explodes like a nuclear bomb.”

Okay, so why in the fuck is their literal only instinct to go stand and look at the thing that's about to explode?

What— What possible fucking explanation is there for this?

There's no— There's no fucking reason for this. This doesn't fucking make sense. Why would you—

They literally just got told, "Hey, um he's going to go set off your bomb. You're we're going to set off your bomb."

And then they literally go to stare at the bomb at point blank range.

And Martha Wells expects us to just accept that this is normal behavior that the villains are totally going to do.

(from offscreen, sarcastically)Award that—

This is— Yeah. Don't ever trust anything that is that won the fucking Hugo award or the Nebula award because they're all fucking bullshit as far as I can tell.

This, this shit won an award and likem the first time I read thism I was like, ‘well that was kind of entertaining’ and then I learned it it won an award and I'm like, “what— what fucking award for— for what?!?! What could— What could you— What kind of fucking contest could this shit possibly win?!?! Like, it was fine— what what fucking award are you going to give this??? What are you fucking talking about?!?!?!?”

So again, uh, literally the villains, they're told, "Hey, they're going to— they're going to go set off that that fucking nuclear bomb you have." So then they go and stare at it.

They literally walk up to poke at it.

What the fuck? How are we supposed to think that this is a ~deathly serious story for mature adults that we're supposed to take seriously~?

We literally are told that the villains literally get told a bomb's going to go off. so, they go and stare at the bomb.

None of them— there's no single person here, even remotely trained in diffusing bombs! They all just rush over to the bomb with no hesitation! “There's no time to waste!! We got to go!!! We got to go stand directly in front of that bomb we were just told is going to go off!!!!”

This is this is the ~super deathly serious writing~ that Martha Wells wants us to take seriously.

But she doesn't actually want us to take it seriously because:

A) That's why there's so many jokes. That's why we gloss over every single injury and don't describe a single goddamn thing.

B) She doesn't want you to be actually actively fucking reading it like I am right now.

If she knows these videos exists, she hates them. She does not want people to actually take the story seriously, because if people actually take the story seriously, um, you know, then you're pointing out— not like all of all of the slavery apologism, all the ableism, all the bigotry, and that's even before you just get to the basic shit fucking writing.

The villains— there's— Martha Wells is so shit at writing she literally couldn't think of a single way for the “good guys” to get themselves out of the situation using their own skills, so, her literal solution is to make the bad guys go and stand directly in front of the bomb that they were just told is going to go off.

That's the solution to this plot! The bad guys are told the bomb's going to go off, so they go and stand and stare at it directly in front of it.

What's their plan? They don't have a plan. They're just here to look at the bomb they were told is going to explode.

This is what Martha Wells won a fucking award for.

This is what we're supposed to pretend is a serious story for serious adults.

Are you fucking kidding me?

Like I, I— honestly, a child would be embarrassed to write this plot because a child would grasp that the bad guys going to stare at the bomb you just told them is going to go off is ridiculous and is not letting the good guys actually win. That's just fucking ridiculous.

Uh,

> Mensah and I were supposed to distract Gray Chris and their SecUnits while this was going on. Get them away from the habitat, not end as up as toast in the beacon launch. With the delay caused by Blue Leader deciding to grab Mensah, time was getting close. The two SecUnits

uh, Gertude and Hammond

> were circling.

Yeah, Gertrude and Hammond

> were circling the beacon's tripod, looking for signs of tampering, and I couldn't take it anymore. I started to walk toward Mensah

Because again, Marthaa Wells just making it so goddamn clear that we're not supposed to see these people as people, because who— who—

If we literally cannot *even* expect our slave protagonist to give a fuck about the other slaves?

Exactly how— what— what other fucking character can we hope to care for them, if we literally cannot even get the goddamn slave protagonist to care about them?

So Martha Wells just goes out of just make sure we know that the slaves are going to be the ones murdered first from the villains being so incompetent, so ludicrously, unbelievably incompetent that they're just going to go stare at the bomb that's going to go off because she literally is she couldn't think of any other goddamn way for the the good guys to to win.

This isn't the “good guys” winning.

This is— This is just nothing. This is just ridiculous.

> I couldn't take it anymore. I started to walk toward Mensah. Yellow noticed me. He must have said something to Blue leader on their feed because she turned to look at me. When the remaining DeltFall SecUnits,

Gertrude and Hammond

> whipped to

No. No. Hold on. Okay. No, that's— unit? That's Damian. Okay.

> When [Damian] whipped toward me and opened fire,

You know, we— she keeps having so many goddamn characters and then you forget they exist when they're not mentioned. It's bad. It's bad. Also, DeltFall and GrayCris are too goddamn similar. There's, there, this, just don't do this shit It's bad. It's bad fucking writing.

> When the remaining DeltFall SecUnit

AKA the remaining person enslaved by the DeltFall Corporation, that we're just going to pretend that corporation's just poor innocent whale slave owners, uh,

> When [Damian] whipped toward me and opened fire, I knew the light had dawned. I dove and

> rolled, coming up with my projectile weapon. I was taking hits all over my armor, but scoring hits on the other SecUnit,

AKA Damian. Damian, one of the people who was told to set a trap for Murderbot, and so followed those orders to the letter, but went out of their way along with Celene, who Murderbot just fucking murdered a few pages ago, to make that trap as obvious as possible so that Murderbot wouldn't fall into it.

It's like Team Rocket being told by Giovani, “you need to build a fucking pitfall trap for XYZ legendary Pokemon that you have actually decided you're going to help because you feel bad.” (Like every they do in every movie) so, they do they build the best pit, pit, pitfall trap ever!

And then they line the entire area around it with neon signs saying this is a pitfall trap. Don't step here. Instead of clearing the area of stuff, they put a special fucking thing that says in repeating—

(from offscreen) unintelligible they would

No talk louder.

(from offscreen) You got that all wrong. They would sacrifice themselves by dramatically jumping on it.

Yep. Yes, the, the the legendary Pokemon who is in distress that they are helping, would start coming out of the things, and they would all, with the, the music playing from military funerals for dramatic irony, they would all step out into the road in front of it and step backwards at once and fall into their own pitfall trap.

You see, this is good— Anybody who's watched the Pokemon anime knows that what we're saying is true. And that's called *characterization*. That's basic characterization. That's what would happen—

How did we get there? Oh, yeah. Because um, Murderbots trying to kill Damian, even though Damian, along with Celene, who Murderbot just fucking murdered and we're not supposed to give a shit, just like a few pages ago, they are the ones who were told “set a trap to catch that SecUnit!”

So they set a trap and then made it the most blatantly obvious trap ever so that they are mentally screaming at Murderbot, "Stay away. We have— We are being ordered to hurt you. We don't want to hurt you. Please, for the love of God, don't come into this fucking hallway or we will be forced to fight you."

And then Martha Wells is a godamn unrepentant racist who has been doubling down on her racism for two fucking decades now—

This shit did not start with the Murderbot Diaries. She is not a brand new fucking author. She's been writing since probably before you have been fucking born. She's been writing other goddamn series. She's been racist the whole time!

She has been getting criticism for her racism the whole time and she's been doubling down on it the whole fucking time.

She decided that the slaves— that—

In any goddamn book written by somebody who actually gives a fuck about slavery and thinks it's bad, would have just—

Cheap anything. Instead, it's literally— she's literally just using it as cheap drama, set dressing for a ~tragic backstory~ so that you automatically view Murderbot as the underdog and forgive all of the horrific fucking crimes it commits against other slaves even when they're the exact crimes that we're told we should feel bad for it for a thing that we get told happen to it in its backstory but we never godamn see—

(from offscreen) and we don't either.

Yeah. Yeah. We keep just keep getting told Murderbot has social anxiety, um, but like no actual PTSD in interacting with slave owners at all, because ~slave owners are good. They're good people.~

(from offscreen, sarcastically) Unless they're ~mean~ about it.

Unless they're mean about it. And that's it. I don't— I think only one fucking slave owner has been killed in this entire series. And that was because that slave owner tried to shoot another slave owner that murderbot likes.

> I dove and rolled, coming up with my projectile weapon. I was taking hits all over my armor, but scoring hits on [Damian]. Mensah ducked around the other side of the hopper, and I

What? How is she ducking? Is nobody holding her? Is she not a fucking prisoner? Why is nobody— Why is she just chill like—

I'm— And hold on.

[flips back pages]

Yeah, it's just, there's no mention of any of the bad guys, like, you know, ~two people holding Mensah's arms~ or anything so she can't run away.

I guess they're just letting her wander around for...reasons?? Because suddenly— Suddenly she's not a prisoner anymore. Um,

> Mensah ducked around the other side of the hopper

Was nobody guarding her at all?? And like, there's so many— there's so many bad guys here. It's like— you — again, this is just shit writing. Just shit writing.

Um, we needed to pretend that they were ~totally prisoners~, um to pretend that there's any stakes, even though we keep making jokes, but as soon as um it's time to leave, well, she, she's— Nobody's holding her prisoner. Nobody's even holding her at all.

No, she— it's not “I saw Mensah out of the corner of my eye” or something: “I saw Mensah fighting off the remaining blah that had grabbed her.” The other— I don't know— was— “had figured out what was going on with the bomb that's about to go off and was running in the opposite direction.”

Anything anything like that? No, it's just “Oh, uh Mensah's running. Mensah ducked around the other side of the hopper.”

How, how is she— was she *not* a goddamn prisoner???? It's just shit writing!

Martha Wells literally cannot actually think of a single way for goddamn heroes to do anything, so she was just *not actually* being held prisoner. Nobody was actually guarding her. Nobody was like holding her. They didn't put fucking handcuffs on her. Just nothing. Just nothing!

They, they were just letting her uh just wander around by herself, no supervision. It's so fucking ridiculous.

And we're about to do the thing.

> Mensah ducked around the other side of the hopper, and I felt a thump rattle through the plateau. That was the beacon's primary drive,

dropping out of its casing to the bottom of the tripod, getting ready to ignite.
The other two

Slaves, Hammond and Gertrude

Had stopped, Blue leader’s surprise freezing them in place.

A thing that has never been implied to be a thing.

Why would— Why would the person being surprised freeze them in place? That was not set up.

We were told that the combat override modules, which we must spell out every single time just to try and pad this pathetic fucking less than a centimeter as much as possible—

Um, we were told that the combat override modules work by you give verbal fucking instructions, and then those instructions have to be followed.

There's no hint that being surprised is somehow going to override anything, because being surprised isn't a goddamn verbal instruction.

No, that's just there so that we can be sure that, um the other slaves are being successfully murdered by the protagonists, a thing we're meant to celebrate, because they're ~just evil, mindless killing machines~.

> I bolted, took a hit in the weak armor joint that went through to my thigh and powered through it.

Because again, again, Martha Wells literally gets up on stage and tells people that if you think this is lighthearted fun, you're willfully ignorant. “I thought I was writing a serious story about bodily autonomy!!!!”.

No, you did not. You did not think that. Shut the fuck up, you goddamn lying bitch. You're a fucking liar. Shut the fuck up.

You can't even goddamn describe the pain of being shot by a fucking bullet. Murderbot's been shot multiple times on just this fucking page.

“When Damian, the remaining DeltFall slave, whipped toward me and opened fire, I knew the light had dawned. I dove and rolled, coming up with my projectile weapon. I was taking hits all over my armor, but scoring hits on the other slave.”

Every— those “taking hits”? That means getting hit by fucking bullets from a goddamn gun!

But we don't— there's no goddamn tension. That's just, that's just glossed over right here. Then we get told, "Oh, I took a hit to my leg.” You took— you got shot by a fucking bullet, a thing that we're— we're— it's just— there, there's there's no depth to this shit.

We literally are not even allowed to take the supposed fight scenes where people are getting shot by bullets seriously, because that is getting glossed over as “I took a hit”. So, nothing happened then. Nothing at all.

And again, you'll notice this will be the third time that Murderbot gets into a ~grievous~ fight and gets ~so~ hurt.

You notice those first two times it magically got healed before like three pages probably at max, had passed? Yeah, it's gonna get magically healed from this again, because Martha Wells is a bad fucking writer, and she'll just tell us that ~oh the character got hurt. Um because I literally cannot think of any other way to end the scene.~

(pointing at cardboard) Like when they pointed that out I'm like oh, yeah, that explains a lot. She does this all the time.

She literally— She couldn't think of a single fucking way for the protagonist to actually win, so the bad guys are just killing themselves.

They literally were told that bomb over there is going to go off, so they ran over to stare at it and poke at it.

Literally the bad guys are literally killing themselves because Martha Wells couldn't think of any way for the good guys to win, but she also can't think of any way for them to actually like, do anything here...

...So instead of figuring out how to end the goddamn story, she's just gonna knock Murderbot unconscious and pretend that it's super dramatic and ~maybe it'll die~, which was literally her plan the whole time with that whole scene in the goddamn ship where it shot itself, because she literally is so racist.

She literally set out to write an entire story where the moral is “a slave killed itself to protect its precious cinnamon roll slavers slave owners is. Isn't that so precious? Isn't that so heartwarming and beautiful?”

> I bolted, took a hit in a weak armor joint that went through to my thigh and powered through it

Because as we all know, you can just get shot in the leg and just keep, just ignore it. It's totally fine. Um, but also this is totally **deathly serious!!!!** This is

really a mature story for mature adults. (sarcastically) I'm sure.

> I made it around the hopper and saw Mensah. I tackled her off the edge of the rock, turning to land on my back, curled an arm over her suit helmet to protect her head from impact. We bounced off rocks and crashed through trees. Then fire washed over the plateau, and knocked out my—

Em dash.

> Unit offline.

(sarcastically) Ooh, so dramatic! It's not like Murderbot literally gets instantaneously healed back to 100% without even any scars or any long-term consequences ever! Wow. I, I wonder if Murderbot will face any permanent consequences from this? (end sarcasm)

No, it won't. We all know that. Anybody who's read any goddamn Martha Wells story knows that.

Then, again, just so much fucking slavery apologism. Do I have to continue pointing that out now? I guess I'm fucking morally obligated because of all the, you know, all of the thousands of people she is training to accept this without question.

Why is the slave prioritizing the safety of its godamn slave owner?

And why is it prioritizing the safety of its slave owner presented as morally good and awesome and heartwarming?

Because ~look how caring the slave is for the person who has enslaved it!!!~

It's the fucking mammy trope.

> Unit offline.

(mockingly) ~Unit offline~ So scary. And look, (pointing at book) you can even look ahead. There's another one over here, because Martha Wells doesn't

know how to end the goddamn story, so, she's just not!

She's just not going to! Literally read Rappo—What? Data ghost. Read data ghost.

That one's short…. So maybe I will literally just read that immediately after this just to show you how fucking hilariously bad and bigoted she is in 2025, because *this* was written in 2017, so you might think “well, well maybe maybe her writing has improved in how many years it's been” when you're watching this video.

I'm recording this in 2025. You could be watching this in 2030. I don't fucking know.

Anyways, uh

> We bounced off rocks and crashed through trees. Then fire washed over the plateau and knocked out my—

dash

> Unit offline.

And you might be thinking, "Oh, wow! Drama! Murderbot’s unconscious! Stakes!"

Oh, nope. Nope. Nope. What's the very next line?

> Oh, that hurt.

Because just in case you were worried that um, we might be expected to take any of this seriously? No, we're not. We're not—

[coughs] egh, just inhaled dust.

> Oh, that hurt. I was lying in a ravine, rocks and trees overhanging it. Mensah was sitting next to me, cradling an arm that looked like it didn't work anymore, and her suit was covered with tears and stains.

And also, if you're thinking, "Oh, well, well, well, Mensah broke an arm. Maybe she'll maybe she'll have to deal with that in the future?"

No, no, no. It it also gets magically healed. I, I guarantee you 99.99% of fans don't even remember that her arm got broken, because that's the only time it comes up.

It's literally just [counting off on fingers] “cradling an arm that looked like it didn't work anymore”. 10 words. That's it. That's all that's dedicated to that injury. Never again, ever again, ever again!

It's just there for this single little goddamn scene between these two goddamn line breaks. (pointing at the page) This is another “unit offline.” Pretend it's dramatic. Pretend it's really meaningful that we're just skipping over shit instead of actually resolving the story.

(from offscreen) This is a classic Martha Wells tactic.

You have to talk louder cuz a fan.

(from offscreen) This is a classic Martha Wells “I don't know how else to end this story. So, the character is

just going to go in and out of consciousness while the plot moves without them.”

Just wait until I read Data Ghost to you all. It's, It's fucking hilarious.

She was whispering to someone on the comm. “Careful if they pick you up on their scanner—”

Dash.

Unit offline.

Everybody pretended it’s so dramatic.

“That's why we need to hurry.” Gurathin said who was suddenly standing over us. I realized I had lost time again. Lost some time again. Gurathin and Pin-Lee had been on foot making their way toward the GrayCris habitat through the cover of the forest

And they miraculously didn't get eaten by any giant aliens on their way there, even though we kept

getting, uh impressed on us over and over again, how dangerous this planet is.

Remember? She literally broke the fourth wall to yell at us not to complain that it doesn't fucking make sense that they haven't left their very public location where the serial killers know where they are!

She explicitly broke the fourth wall to yell at us that “it totally makes sense, guys!!! This planet's so dangerous. Why would they? They're terrified to leave!!!!!”

But also, they can just casually walk through the forest without any trouble. They don't get eaten by a graboid. Don't get eaten by a xenomorph. Don't get eaten by a fucking megalodon on the goddamn terror shark, whatever the fucking you call it.

No! Nothing! Nothing, nothing, nothing.

Not even like any alien mosquitoes that carry a goddamn poison that will just make you explode from the inside out. Nothing. It—

~tThe planet's so dangerous, guys. So dangerous that they thought it justified enslaving somebody to use as a meat shield and then treating that person as a meat shield for like a month!!~ Including after you supposedly “realized it was a person” because you're fucking slave owning liars.

Anyways,

> Gurathin and Pin-Lee had been on foot making their way toward the GrayCris habitat through the cover of the forest

They would have had to walk a really godamn long way. I don't think Martha Wells knows how long it takes to walk long distances because like she kept, in, like, emphasizing how quickly this whole situation was going with them trying to stall.

It was like maybe 30 minutes max.

Even if these guys were sprinting, like— it's an alien planet in a forest. There's no trails through.

This is not realistic. And again, it's— no, you don't get to break the fourth wall to yell at us to stop complaining that the story doesn't make sense. You should have just written a story that makes sense.

You can't keep emphasizing, "Oh, this planet's so dangerous. So dangerous." But then they can just walk a really, really, really, really long distance through an uncharted, unexplored alien forest by themselves.

They don't have guns, Murderbot's the only one with a gun. They don't even have guns. And, and and do all this shit including finding where these two crashed somehow, even though we have no mention of like, landmarks where—

How exactly— how exactly did they find Mensah? How exactly did that happen? We will never know, because it's shittily written.

> Gurathin and Pin-Lee had been on foot making their way toward the GrayCris habitat through the cover of the forest. We had meant to go pick

> them up in the little hopper if everything didn't go to shit. Which it did, but only partly. So, yay for that.

I'm not making up this this fucking prose right now. This is legitimately what it says.

> Which it did, but only partly. So, yay for that.

When Murderbot’s supposed to be grievously injured and we're supposed to be taking this deathly seriously, we're saying, "Oh, well, it only went slightly to shit, so yay for that.”

> Pin-Lee leaned over me and I said, "This unit is at minimum functionality and it is recommended that you discarded.”

And again, you see how that— the bad guys— the fucking the bad guys put in this— dehumanizing these slaves using it/its pronouns to say they are objects instead of people?

Yeah, that's fine. That's good when the bad guys do it.

It's it's fucking evil when the good guys do it. “And don't question it at all!”

Because again, yes, Murderbot *can* use it/its pronouns. Again, I use it/its pronouns.

But the difference is, if Murderbot is going to be using these pronouns, then there needs to be a fucking conversation about that, so that we have assurance as the fucking audience— that keeps getting told ~these slave owners are actually good people~—

We need assurance that they actually view Murderbot as a person.

So if you rent, if you bought a fucking robot that you assumed, you know, just regular goddamn machine, and then you found out it was a person, and this whole entire time you've been referring to it as an “it” because you thought it was a regular machine and not a person, the second you find out it's not a fucking regular machine and is in fact a person, the very first thing you should be doing is asking, "Oh shit. I've, I've

been calling you an “it”. what should I call you instead?”

And then that would have been gi— that would have given Murderbot the ability to actually advocate for itself, *for five seconds* and say, “I chose those pronouns for myself. Those are what I'm using,” etc.

We don't do that though.

So, it's literally just endlessly— the god like the slave owners, they did not even ask! So, it's literally just them continuing to emphasize the fact to themselves, *and to Murderbot* that it is lesser than them, because they are the goddamn slave owners, exactly the way they keep referring to it as “SecUnit” AKA “Slave”.

A SecUnit is a fucking slave. They are referring to their slave continuously as a goddamn slave and treating it, and speaking about it like it's not even in the room, the exact same way they were before they supposedly “found out it was a person”.

This is fucking— so many things. It's fucking racist. It's ableist. It's fucking exorsexist and transmisic.

And, again, the only reason that Murderbot is allowed to be nonbinary by Martha Wells at all, is that it doesn't have genitalia.

She, despite whatever lip service she says in paid interviews— paywalled interviews with herself— she does in fact fucking equate gender to genitalia.

She just knows that's not a goddamn popular opinion, so, she's quiet about it and tries to pretend that, “oh, I'm I'm totally progressive. That's why in my new story, there are two genders. People who wear pants and people who wear skirts. And those are the only fucking options. And if you wear pants, that means you're this gender. And if you put on a skirt, that means you're this gender. No, you can't be X gender and wear a skirt just because you want a skirt. No, that means your gender is *that* now!”

Literally, she just she literally decided in— that— I'm, I—

“Yes, there are two genders. People who wear pants and people who wear skirts!”

And she thinks that's progressive.

Anyways, blah blah blah.

> It's an automatic reaction triggered by catastrophic malfunction

Because she she can't show us that Murderbot is grievously injured in a way that will literally get healed before five pages pass. Yeah, it's only going to last literally less. Like, that's not even a quarter of this fucking page. That's how much longer this thing that we're getting told is ~a catastrophic malfunction~ AKA catastrophic injury. Not really. Not really! We're just getting told that.

And it's literally not even going to last… That's not even half a page if you combine those.

Blah.

> It's an automatic reaction triggered by catastrophic malfunction. Also, I really didn't want them to move me because it hurt bad enough the way it was.

You notice how we just getting told, literally told to us, “it hurts”. I “It hurt bad enough already”, but yet we had all this shit up here on this side?

We could have been describing the pain. We could have been describing the emotions that go with that pain, but nope. Nope. No, no, nope, nope, nope!

We just get told, "Oh, by the way, I'm in pain for realsies. Trust me, guys. It's It's totally real and emotional and deep and mature and serious. Totally. Totally. It's— I'm really good at storytelling. This is why I have never shown a thing in this whole goddamn series, except for the things that I *don'*t want you to take away, which is that I'm a racist shitbag and every goddamn character in here is a fucking horrific person.”

> Also, I really didn't want them to try to move me because it hurt bad enough the way it was. “Your contract allows—” “Shut up!” Mensah snapped. “You shut the fuck up! We're not leaving you!”

And it's like again, Mensah? She took a whole orientation thing before she rented out this ficlomg slave that she went out of her way to get to become a slave owner of.

She knows that they have these automatic fucking responses that happen upon catastrophic injury, but—and again, she did this before, too!

Um, her response to their slave being deathly injured is just to yell at it every single fucking time. Like, not saying, "You're going to be okay. We're going to help you."

No, it's just just snapping and snarling at the person who's dying. Yeah, that',s that's, real, that's real nice. That's definitely good person behavior.

> My visual cut out again. I was sort of still there, but I could tell I was hovering on the edge of a systems failure. I had flashes off and on the inside of the little hopper, my humans talking.

And again, again, again, again! The slavery apologism! She cannot stop with the slavery apologism! “My humans” These are its fucking slave owners!

They have been using it as a slave! They are its literal slave owners!

But Martha Wells is telling you, "No, look how cute it is! The slave really cares about its slave owners. It sees them as “its” slave owners! They belong to *it* in its heart!”

Not the other way around as literal goddamn property! Chattel slavery fucking meat shield. No, no, ~it's totally cute!!~

This is, you know, the mammy trope.

> The inside of the little hopper. My humans talking. Arada holding my hand

Because ~look how cute the slave owners are. They're just pure cinnamon rolls!!~ Ignore every single horrific fucking thing they have put this slave through after supposedly “finding out it was a person.”

And again, they knew it was a person the whole entire time!

They're literally just fucking lying to us!

> Then being in the big hopper as it was lifting up. I could tell from the drive noise, the flashes of the feed that the pickup transport was bringing it on board. That was a relief. It meant they were all safe and I let go.

That's the end of chapter 7. We're now on chapter eight.

Again, so much fucking slavery apologism. We're— We're literally supposed to think it's ~so heartwarming! Murderbot doesn't let itself fall unconscious while it's dying until it knows its slave owners are safe!!~

This is slavery apologism.

Martha Wells is literally fucking asking you to worship and adore the idea of a slave sacrificing itself over and over and over again to protect its goddamn slave owners.

Literally, that's what this is.

Every single fucking page of this goddamn book is trying to fucking indoctrinate you into the exact— I guess— the exact same shit Martha Wells grew up learning in Texas schools but probably fucking worse.

(from offscreen) And is so incurious as an adult she can't—

She's she's older than my mom. She's older than my mom. She has had her entire fucking life to stop being a racist fucking slavery apologist, but she has literally done nothing but double down on it.

Ever since she started receiving criticism, she literally decided to— instead of just apologizing for the racist tropes she put in her fucking fantasy book in 2011, she decided to double down by by defending British colonization instead.

Literally.

Anyways, chapter eight… After I check the battery on this thing, 50% fuck yeah.

Chapter eight. Let's go.

> I came back to awareness in a cubicle. The familiar acrid odor and hum of the systems as it put me back together. Then I realized it wasn't the cubicle at the habitat. It was an older

Oh, this is the part that made me drop my fucking phone. All right, let me restart.

> I came back to awareness in a cubicle. The familiar acid odor and hum of the systems as it put me back together. Then I realized it wasn't the cubicle at the habitat. It was an older model, a permanent installation.
> I was back at the company station.
> And humans knew about my governor module.

The next sentence is what made me drop my phone because I— like— that's, that's a great start to this chapter.

Unironically, that's a great fucking start to this chapter. We're setting up so much goddamn tension. We even do— (holding up book) I'm trying to make it so you can't see what's what's next, what made me drop my fucking phone.

(pointing at book) We even have those two little short paragraphs you can maybe see. Use your imagination and pretend you see.

We even have those two little short paragraphs that are just a single sentence long. “I was back at the company station.” Period. New paragraph. “And humans knew about my governor module.” Period. New paragraph.

That is objectively good writing. Look! I'm complimenting the book for doing basic shit correctly! That's good writing.

When you use short sentences like that, that's how you set up tension. Instead of saying, um, “I found the dead body in the fridge and blah blah blah and blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.”

That's not setting up tension. It's “XYZ character walked into the kitchen. Period. New paragraph. And saw the dead body lying on the floor.” Anything, anything at all.

Like, this is basic shit. This is correct. This is objectively correct. How you write to set up tension.

Unfortunately, this is a story written by Martha Wells that she lies to people about in speeches that I *presume* she's getting paid to make.

She didn't write a serious story.

She doesn't actually want there to be tension.

So, everybody— just, if you haven't read this book yet, or even if you have, you probably forgot what the next line is.

Just, just write down on a piece of paper or something. Just guess out loud to yourself or— I will, I'll even reread it again— and tell me what you think the next— No, you don't even have to tell me. Don't even, you don't even have to comment. Just Just read out loud to yourself. Say to yourself what you think the next thing is going to be.

I'll even reread the whole start.

I came back to awareness in a cubicle the familiar acrid and odor and hum of the systems as it put me back together.

Period.

Then I realized it wasn't the cubicle at the habitat.

Period.

It was an older model, a permanent installation.

Period. New paragraph.

I was back at the company station.

Period. New paragraph.

And humans knew about my governor module.

Period. New paragraph.

All right. Are you ready? We've set up that tension. Look at all that tension we've successfully set up. Technically correct. Literally, objectively correct way to set up tension. All right. You ready?

You ready?

I poked tentatively at it.

That's the next sentence. That's the next sentence.

Above that is, "And humans knew about my governor module."

I poked tentatively at it.

So, we go from setting up all of that tension and fear, “Oh my fucking god. I'm back at the goddamn fucking plantation.” If we get away, get rid of the fucking euphemisms. “I'm back at the goddamn company in the permanent fucking installation and fucking slave owners know that my brain killing chip won't fucking kill me. Oh my fucking god.” That's what we've set up. That's what we set up. That's correct.

And then,

I poked at it tentatively.

Just poked. She used the word poked. The way that cat— you can't fucking see them, take my word for it — Like the way that cat just poked his his sister before sitting down because he's adorable.

(talking to cat) Want to come sit in front of the camera?

He's not even looking.

(to cat) Heyy, want to come here?

No, he doesn't.

We set up all of that tension and then we throw it all in the garbage with:

I poked tentatively at it.

So, Murderbot's literal instantaneous reaction to thinking, "Oh my god, I might be fully enslaved again with the brain killing chip!” is to just instantly “poke” it tentatively.

I poked at it tentatively.

There's so many ways you could get across the same idea of Murderbot is checking to see if it's functional without killing every single shred of tension.

(to cat) Are you actually coming this way? Yeah. Come here. Just don't knock the phone over. Are you just going to sit there and look at me? You're just going to sit there? You're just going to stare at me? Why don't you come over here? All right, then sit with her. Sit with your silly sister. She's not paying attention.

We could have said so many fucking things right here. We could have done so many goddamn things instead of killing all of that tension with choosing a purposefully absurd and jarring fucking thing. Just “poked”.

That's the word she went with.

Poked.

I poked tentatively at it.

I'll continue reading. Period.

Still nonfunctional.

Period.

My media storage was still intact, too.

Period.

Huh.

Period.

She just killed all of that tension, just to make another joke.

Just to— just— literally we had just (holding up fingers a small distance apart) this much on page of

tension. This is how big the fucking paragraph is. Literally start to finish. We had that much tension.

This is— this is, this is the climax. This— No, this is— no, no.

That whole that whole thing where the bad guys were told, "Hey, that bomb's going to go off. That giant bomb that will kill everything within kilometers of it, that's going to go off." So, they went to stand 10 feet away from it and poke at it. That was the “climax”.

This? This shit here, this is supposed to be a resolution, but it's like, it's not even pretending to be a resolution. It's— We're— We're about to just stop—

Yeah. We set up all that tension and then just kill it. Just kill it forever.

(to person offscreen) Did he just pull that out of her?

(from offscreen) Yeah. Just as like a loose little thing.

I know, but it's like so dramatic looking.

So,

> When the cubicle opened, Ratthi was standing there.

Period.

> He was wearing regular civilian station clothes, but with the soft gray jacket with the PreservationAux survey logo. He looked happy and a lot cleaner than the last time I had seen him. He said, "Good news. Dr. Mensah has permanent permanently bought your contract. You're coming home with us!"
> That was a surprise.

And then we get another line break because the ending of this book is just going to— “the ending” I say. It's just going to be like a whole bunch of fucking line breaks.

(from offscreen) Time skips.

Yeah, time skips.

> I went to finish processing, still reeling. It seemed like the kind of thing that would happen in a show, so I kept running diagnostics and checking the various available feeds to make sure I wasn't still in the cubicle hallucinating. There was a report running on the local station news about DeltFall and GrayCris in the investigation. If I was hallucinating, I think the company wouldn't have managed to come out of the whole mess as the heroic rescuers of PreservationAux.

Except like they literally objectively are. So, but we're supposed to pretend they're not. And it's like, okay, but they didn't do anything wrong.

You [Preservation] fucking decided to hire them to be to to rent out a goddamn slave from them. You didn't — Nobody made you— They also like, genuinely came to your rescue!

So, why are we pretending that they didn't actually do that?

We just keep saying, "Oh, the evil corporation's so evil and bad. Ignore all of the things that the good guys are doing that's literally the exact same thing.”

Also, we're just going to keep claiming the company's cheap even though they're spending all this money and are supposedly super duper expensive.

Anyways,

> I expected a suit skin and armor

A thing— we still don't know what the fuck a suit skin is.

We have no goddamn clue.

Is it fucking artificial skin that goes over murderbot’s ~non-organic~ parts? Is it fucking, what you call it? Is it under— Is it long underwear? Is it long winter underwear?

We don't fucking know because this is badly fucking written.

And Martha Wells is demanding that we the audience use our imagination and do the work that *she's literally getting paid for*.

(to person offscreen) Find me that quote by Ursula K. Le Guin. We'll end this book with that fucking quote.

(from offscreen) Which one?

Uh, something something. ‘The imagination is the only thing that lets anybody’ blah blah blah.

> I expected a suit, skin, and armor. But the station units that helped us out of processing when we had catastrophic injuries

And we— those those enslaved people, they never come up again. Most fans don't even remember they fucking exist, because they are never mentioned again, and that's the first and last time they're mentioned.

> But

the blah blah blah

> gave me the gray PreservationAux survey uniform instead.

Also, why why is she so obsessed with making everybody have gray uniforms? Why would the— why would Preservation have a gray uniform? It's just weird and dumb.

Anyways,

> I put it on feeling weird while the station unit stood around and watched me. We're not buddies or anything, but usually they pass along the news. What happened while you were offline what the upcoming contracts were. I wondered if they felt as weird as I did. Sometimes suck units got bought in groups complete with cubicles by other companies. Nobody had ever come back from a survey and decided they wanted to keep their unit.

And it's like this is all just so much more slavery apologism. ~Oh, oh, the the people who literally help me when I am injured, we're not buddies. Of course, I don't like them. I can't even tell any of them apart!”

And it's like, Martha Wells literally cannot fucking imagine, even for 5 seconds, any— any fucking solidarity between enslaved people whatsoever.

And it's because she's a horrible fucking person. Because she's a fucking slavery apologist.

She wants to convince us that Murderbot can never have any friends unless they're its literal goddamn slave owners.

Murderbot has never cared about one single person in its entire godamn life, except its slave owners, because *she's fucking racist*.

> When I came out, Ratthi was still there. He grabbed my arm and tugged me past a couple of human techs and out through two levels of secure doors and into the display area. This was

where the rentals were arranged, and it was nicer than the rest of the deployment center with carpets and couches. Pin-Lee stood in the middle of it, dressed in sharp business attire. She looked like somebody from one of the shows I liked. The tough yet compassionate solicitor coming to rescue us from unfair prosecution.

(holds up one finger)

Two humans in company gear were standing around like they wanted to argue with her, but she was ignoring them, tossing a data chip casually in one hand. One saw me and Ratthi and said, "Again, this is irregular. Purging the unit's memory before it changes hand isn't just a policy. It's best for the—” “And again, I have a court order," Pin-Lee said, grabbed my other arm and they walked me out.

I'm holding up my goddamn hand because the that the whole thing— purging the unit's memory before it changes hand, and before it gets new clients?

That's, that— in Martha Wells's own fucking words, core programming that forces Murderbot and every other godamn slave in this series, including the phys — the fully mechanical robots along with all the cyborgs— her own words, core programming forces them to *want* to follow the orders of their current slave owners.

In Murderbots's case, this is the PreservationAux crew— and *want* to protect them on a fundamental core level.

I am quoting Martha Wells directly. She literally stated this shit explicitly. Core programming, fundamental core level. Murderbot— This core fucking programming that goes beyond the governor module. Core fucking programming has programmed Murderbot, on a fundamental core level, to want to protect its current slave owners.

And as of this fucking moment, when they refused to get that memory fucking programming purged, it's slave owners in Murderbot's core goddamn programming—

This is again, I can't stress enough, beyond the governor module, this is permanent. They are its goddamn slave owners from now until fucking forever.

Unless the eighth fucking chronological book, it's not even the eighth, it's like the 13th or 14th.

Unless the next book is going to do a fucking heelface turn or whatever the fuck you call it, it's not going to happen—

Where somebody comes along and deletes that fucking core programming for Murderbot so that it can realize, “oh my fucking god, these are my goddamn slave owners. I'm going to kill them right now!”

No, no, none of that. We are— literally Martha Wells literally told people this explicitly in a paywalled fucking interview where—

And that's the same fucking interview where she sexually harassed Murderbot out of the in-character

interview even though it's fucking called, I'm not joking, Bodily Autonomy in The Murderbot Diaries.

And she literally sexually harassed Murderbot out of the conversation so that she could talk to ART instead.

I'm not joking.

You can't make this shit up.

Literally, they have— these fucking slave owners have refused to give Murderbot any goddamn true freedom.

And they have to know this, because *she has a court order*.

Who the fuck is enforcing that court order?

What fucking court is a little dinky goddamn backwater like Preservation, like we're supposed to believe they are, going to bring a giant security corporation to?

What fucking court?

Where are you getting a goddamn court order?

And how have you done all of that shit in like, instantaneously??

We have no fucking clue how much time has passed.

How did she get this shit?? What fucking court???

Because SecUnits, we get told, we get told over and over and over again after this shit, SecUnits are considered deadly weapons. Like weapons of mass destruction.

What fucking court in the corporation rim is going to give some stupid little backwater scientists free reign to just take a deadly goddamn weapon—

(from offscreen) Proprietary.

Proprietary technology deadly fucking weapon away from— a thing for— fucking, for there,, there's this is

just all kinds of bullshit and again this is just shit writing!

It's— you're not actually supposed to think about it, because it's badly fucking—

(from offscreen) Can I interject?

Yes, you can. You just have to talk louder.

(from offscreen) They should not even allow this just on the level of corporate espionage and backwards engineering.

Literally! How exactly is a court order going to stop this shit?

(from offscreen) *Why* would a court order stop this shit?

Why would a court order— Why would a court order ever be even remotely able to do this shit? It doesn't fucking make sense.

It's not like they said *beforehand* that they're buying the goddamn SecUnit and now they have to keep up that bargain.,

No! They were renting it out. They're supposed to give it back and now for some reason they've decided they're going to buy it and the company clearly doesn't want that to happen, but somehow they've ~got a court order~ from *somewhere*, somewhere that says
“no, um you're not allowed to wipe— you're not allowed to factory reset it—”

None of this makes sense! Ju, J, d, ju—Oh my god

(from offscreen) Here's another, here's another epiphany on the same level of “the Preservation people are just a state that cedeeded from the union and still keep slaves, but it's okay cuz their slaves are happy about it.”

(from offscreen) Uh this whole court order thing, and Pin-Lee I think being a lawyer and having all these laws that save the day… This is literally just

postulating and show telling the audience that “if it's law, it's just” and…

liberalism.

(from offscreen) Yeah. Like, it's a, it's a law that is randomly saving Murderbot from being enslaved. But we're not gonna talk about how this would be literally setting a precedent in the law that you can't keep these things enslaved? Or like, anybody who could rent a SecUnit now can just say “we're buying it, permanently”, if they want to? And the company can't say no

Or factory reset it, even though— even though they're supposed to be caring about like, fucking like corporate espionage. Like this literally means this this is yeah as they fucking said, this is— okay, so a law, the law, “the legal system is perfect and is always on your side. Ignore the part where this is the same legal system that keeps people like Murderbot seen as property. Unc— uncritically uncritically claiming that the legal system is on your side.”

Literally the “she looked like somebody from one of the shows. I liked. the tough yet compassionate solicitor coming to the coming to rescue us from unfair prosecution.”

(from offscreen) Do tje Law and Order SVU sound.

I don't know what the fuck that sounds like.

(from offscreen) It's the a like gong. Duh-duh. There's also a thing where Lincoln Park is playing in the background while a guy shoots a kid because the kid's secretly a serial killer.

What?

(from offscreen)Yes, that

What are you talking What?

(from offscreen) That's a thing that exists that came across my dash and it was like so hilariously bad I had to go in and I was like, is this a really hilarious edit somebody made or did they legitimately have this

music in the episode like this? And yes, they had it in the music like that. Um, crawling I think.

Why? What?

(from offscreen) It didn't even fit. But just that those kind of propaganda and lawyer—yeah. Lawyer shows literally were saying it's good for a fully a grown man to shoot a kid in a crowded public courthouse "because that kid was psychotic and a serial killer"—

What the fuck.

(from offscreen) And would kill again—

—What the fuck?!—

(from offscreen) —Without remorse.

You're just going to have to find a video about this. I I don't believe you. Um, I mean, I do because you know, propaganda. Um...

Anyways:

> The tough yet compassionate solicitor coming to rescue us from unfair prosecution.

Okay. Why are there TV shows in the corporation rim, the capitalist dystopia, showing that lawyers are are good and on your side, Martha Wells?

Uh, what's that fucking quote? Oh, I just ‘Americans to say the least are not intellectual’. Martha Wells to say.

(from offscreen) Do you want the full quote from Ursula K...?

Yes. But not yet. Not yet. It's going to be at the very end. It's only like one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, seven pages left.

I'll I'll be faster. Yeah, they they are now permanently etched into the core programming of Murderbot's fucking psyche to be its slave owners forever unless somebody comes along and frees it from that core programming, which is never going to happen, because Martha Wells literally wants you to think that

this core programming, AKA like buried fucking deep brainwashing—

She wants you to think this isn't horrible. This isn't evil. This isn't a nightmare scenario. Like, you know, Farscape, Xenogenesis, so many goddamn things I could list out right now!

This isn't a nightmare situation. Being brainwashed to have to love the people enslaving you and abusing you? That's that's just showing how morally upstanding the slaves are, because they understand that slave owners are just poor innocent little babies who need their protection.

I'm not joking.

Anyways, then we have a line break.

I had never seen

Look, we didn't say “had had”. I had had. We don't say that because, you know, we don't fucking need to.

> I had never seen the human parts of the station before.

And again, Martha Wells wants to tell everybody that this is a deathly serious story for mature adults.

You can't even say the word slave owner or, you know, non-segregated or I— like,

> I had never seen the human parts of the station before.

You mean the parts of the station that slaves aren't allowed onto?

Why are you— Why are you— Why aren't you, if this is supposed to be deathly serious, why are you doing euphemisms?

I just say “I'd never seen the parts of the station where slaves weren't allowed before.” Just say that. But you don't actually want us to give a shit.

You don't actually want us to think about the fact that every goddamn human, as you want to say them as, every goddamn human in this system is fucking complicit in this slavery. Anybody who's not actively fucking fighting to free the slaves, they're complicit. That is how this shit works. That is how this shit works.

> We went down the big multileveled central ring past office blocks and shopping centers crowded with every kind of people, every kind of bot

Because, okay, so they do have slaves in this other area. Whatever.

> Flash data displays darting around a hundred different public feeds brushing my awareness. It was just like a place from the entertainment feed, but bigger and brighter and noisier. It smelled good, too. The thing that surprised me is that nobody stared at us. Nobody even gave us a second look. The uniform, the pants, the long sleeve t-shirt and jacket covered all my

> inorganic parts. If they noticed the data port in the back of my neck, they must have thought I was an an augmented human. We were just three more people making our way down the ring. It hit me that I was just as anonymous in a crowd of humans who didn't know each other as I was in my armor in a group of other SecUnits.

And it's because it's literally not a fucking robot. It's a goddamn cyborg who was brainwashed and fucking—

Ow my foot. Ow. fucking ow—

Mutilated at birth.

And don't worry, Martha Wells is going to retcon this in book two, to justify torturing Murderbot. And it's going to be presented as a good thing.

You're thinking, "Whoa, what the fuck?!"

Yeah, just you wait.

> It hit me that I was just as anonymous in a crowd of humans who didn't know each other as I was in my armor in a group of other slaves. As we turned into a hotel block,

I hate that, we c, I hate that we say like “a hotel block” as though there's an entire city block just dedicated to hotels. That's not how capitalism works. Can you figure this shit out?

> As we turned into a hotel block, I pushed a public feed offering— I brushed a public feed offering station info. I saved a map and a set of shift schedules as we passed through the doors into the lobby.

And again, ~oh, Murderbot's just such an underdog. It doesn't know how to do anything~. Ignore the part where it's just doing all this _ with zero effort whatsoever.

> There were potted trees twisting up into a hanging glass sculpture fountain. Real, not a holo. Looking at it, I almost didn't see the

> reporters until they were right up on us. They were augmented humans with a couple of drone cams. One tried to stop Pin-Lee and Instinct took over took over and I shouldered him off her

Because, you know, it's literally core programmed to have to protect these people.

> He looked startled, but I'd been gentle, so he didn't fall down. Pin-Lee said, "We're not taking questions now." Shoved Rathi into the hotel's transport pod, then grabbed my arm and pulled me in after her. It whooshed us around.

And again, as you said, the— What was that quote from that review about Moon?

(from offscreen) I don't remember. Uh, give me more context.

The Moon, of— “Moon is like a female character written by somebody who thinks that having a “strong” female character means

(from offscreen) Um, uh, “by an author who thinks that feminism is just having—

talk louder.

(from offscreen) Protagonist as written by an author who thinks that feminism is literally when you just have “strong” female characters and nothing else. There's no—

That's quotation “strong female character” because people don't actually grasp what that means.

(from offscreen) Yeah. There's no constru— concept or deconstruction of misogynistic tropes or oppressive — no care given for other people suffering these systems.

Uh yeah. Pin-Lee, she's got— again she really doesn't exist as a character. Her personality is like, "Oh, I'm tough and that's pretty much it. I'm I'm the tough lawyer” And that's pretty much it. She's just tokenized. We don't get any depth to her, just like we don't get any depth to Ratthi or even Mensah, even

though Mensah is supposed to be the most important one.

Ratthi is literally just comic relief. He's just there to be the brown guy who's comic relief. We don't even know what his specialization is. He could— He could be— We don't know what his hair color is. We don't know what his skin color is. We don't know a single goddamn thing about him besides his name and that he's comic relief.

He could be like, I don't know, the world's most advanced mathematician for all we fucking know. Huh?

(from offscreen) Rockstar mathematician Jurassic Park.

I don't understand that reference.

(from offscreen) That's what he's referencing at— that's whatshisface guy from the third movie, that was perplexing, is described as in the book.

I don't remember that. What was the third movie?

(from offscreen) The one that started out really ..Did we watch, didn't we?

No, that was the second movie because that was the one we didn't know existed.

(from offscreen) Whichever one started out really really good and then you could tell exactly the moment that they ran out of plot.

That was the second one with the the the RV scene that went on for like 20 minutes. Yes. It's like, okay, you you started out that scene started out well, but then it's like, okay, you're just dragging now. Just stop. I mean, A+ for, for effort and uh follow through. Uh but it's going on too long.

Uh yeah, we're talking about Ratthi. Yeah, whatever.

Uh

> Pin-Lee said, "We're not taking questions now." Shoved Rathi into the hotel's transport pod, then grabbed my arm and pulled me in after her. It whooshed us around.

Uh, and again, we just get told there's a a hotel transport pod out of nowhere. We have no description of this scene in any way.

Uh, we don't know what the fucking a transport pod is or how it works. They're just in one. It just appears out of nowhere and they're in one.

> It whooshed us around and let us out in the foyer of a big suite. I followed Pin-Lee in, Ratthi behind us talking to someone on his comm. It was just as fancy as the ones on the media with carpets and furniture and big windows looking down on the gardens and sculptures in the main lobby, except the rooms were smaller. I guess the ones in the shows are bigger to give them better angles for the drone cams.

But why do you need bigger angles when your cameras are supposedly less than a centimeter and can fly into upper atmospheres? But whatever, we're not supposed to be thinking about this, remember? Because, uh “media analysis is for chumps”. That's why Murderbot has watched its supposed favorite show hundreds of times and yet cannot say a single goddamn word about it.

> My clients, ex-clients, new owners were here. Only everybody looked different in their normal clothes.

Like that's literally that's Murderbot's thought process up here. It literally doesn't fucking know, because they've literally bought it. They are literally objectively its new fucking slave owners.

> My clients, ex-clients, new owners were here. Only everybody looked different in their normal clothes. Dr. Mensah stepped close, looking up at me. “Are you all right?” “Yes.” I had clear pictures from my field camera of her being hurt, but all her damage had been repaired,

> too. She looked different in business clothes like Pin-Lee’s. “I don't understand what's happening.” It was stressful.

See, we just get getting told the emotions. We don't get to see or feel them. We could have— getting— be we could have been getting a description of Murderbots being stressed this whole time. We just get told it though. “It was stressful.” That's all we're going to get because Martha Wells is bad at writing.

> I could feel the entertainment feed out there, the same one I could access from the unit processing zone and it was hard not to sink into it.

So again, we're just pretending that “”um this is really stressful on Murderbot. Um we're not going to show that in any way though” because we're not actually supposed to think this is like, dramatic.

> She said, "I've purchased your contract. You're coming back to Preservation with us. You'll be a free agent there.” “I'm off inventory."

And again, I said this so many fucking times. The dialogue is bad. Not just in what's being said, the formatting! We have not established back and forth. We can't have established back and forth because there's so much fucking pross interrupting what is actually being fucking said.

> She said, "I've purchased your contract. You're coming back to Preservation with us. You'll be a free agent there.” “I'm off inventory."

No. This is shit formatting. Don't do this.

You can't just have the dialogue of whoever the fuck is talking next without specifying beforehand who's talking when you haven't fucking set up the back and forth—

And I just almost dislocated my foot again.

You— This is shit. She keeps doing this shit. This is supposed to be professionally edited and professionally published. This is supposed to be the final product, not the first draft.

Why is the dialogue consistently formatted badly and it never improves? Just you fucking wait until I read Data Ghost to you. It's atrocious and hilariously so. And Data Ghost is from 2025! That came out just a few fucking months ago. Just you fucking wait.

“I'm off inventory” as the dialogue at the start of this fucking paragraph out of nowhere. It's bad fucking writing.

> They had told me that and maybe it was true. I had the urge to twitch uncontrollably and I had no idea why.

And it's like that's just put in there to make it seem like,” oh, there's totally emotions going on here.” It's It's not. There's none. There's no There's none. It's just shit fucking writing. It's, It's shit writing.

> “Can I still have armor?” It was the armor that told people I was a SecUnit, but I wasn't a SecUnit, but I wasn't Sec anymore. Just Unit.

That's also going to get retcconed and never come back ever again.

The others were so quiet.

That's supposed to be up, ~Look, the, the the slave owners are ~so~ quiet. It's it's so they're so sad on behalf of the poor slave that they're totally literally just going to continue exploiting forever.~

The others were so quiet.

Period.

She said, "Ama, even and calm, we can arrange that as long as you think you need it." I didn't know if I thought I needed it or not. “I don't have a cubicle.” she was reassuring. “You won't need one. People won't be shooting at you. If you're hurt or your parts are damaged, you can be repaired in a medical center. “If people won't be shooting at me, what will I be doing?” Maybe I could be her bodyguard. “I think you

> can learn to do anything you want.” She smiled. “We'll talk about that when we get you home.”

And this fandom is so fucking racist, exactly in the way Martha Wells has trained them to be, that they take that statemen,t “I think you can learn to do anything you want”, they present that as the ultimate betrayal.

That's the reason that we're ~supposed to be mad at the Preservation aux team. They made so many mistakes in dealing with Murderbot~ and it wasn't, you know, any of the outright abuse and torture.

No, no, we shouldn't be mad at that.

Um, the thing we have to be upset with them for is telling the slave, "You can do anything you want. You don't have to keep doing the thing that we enslaved you to do. You don't have to keep doing the thing you were enslaved to do that we also forced you to do. You can do anything you want”.

Martha Wells and her audience that she has successfully trained into repeating her slavery apologism, they present that line as as the reason that, um, they're we're ~supposed to be upset with them~ they claim.

We're not. We're not. But that's supposed to be ~Oh, that's See, they're so mean to the slave by telling it it can do anything it wants.~

A thing that's objectively true. But see, that's framed as a problem, because um, Martha Wells doesn't want Murderbot to be allowed to do anything it wants.

She wants Murderbot and every other godamn slave in the story to just keep doing the thing they were enslaved to do forever.

And again in that paywalled interview, she literally tells us that because of this internal core programming, fundamental core programming, sorry, her literal words, “fundamental core programming”, the only way—

Murderbot literally cannot be happy unless it is using itself as a meat shield for its slave owners, which is what these people are, because Martha Wells is fucking racist.

She doesn't portray this as a godamn nightmare. It's just that's ~Oh, that's so cute. Of course, Murderbot wants to dedicate its life to doing the thing it was enslaved to do forever until it kills it!~

Because she's racist and she wants you to be racist, too.

> Arada walked in then and came over and patted my shoulder. We're so glad you're with us," she said. She told Mensah, "The DeltFall representatives are here." Mensah nodded. "I have to talk to them," she told me. "Make yourself comfort comfortable here. If there's anything you need, tell us." I sat in a back corner and watched while different people came in and out of the suite to talk about what had happened. Solicitors mostly from the company from DeltFall from at least three other

corporate political entities and one independent even from GrayCris's parent company. They asked questions, argued, looked at security records, showed Mensah and Pin-Lee security records, and they looked at me. Gurathin watched me too, but he didn't say anything. I wondered if he had told Mensah not to buy me. I watched the entertainment feed a little to calm down, then pulled everything I could about the Preservation alliance from the station's information center. No one would be shooting at me because they didn't shoot people there. Mensah didn't need a bodyguard there. Nobody did. It sounded like a great place to live if you were a human or augmented human. Ratthi came over to see if I was all right. And I asked him to tell me about Preservation and how Mensah lived there. He said when she wasn't doing admin work, she lived on a farm outside the capital city with two marital partners, plus her sister and brother and their three marital partners and a bunch of relatives and kids who Ratthi had lost count of. He was

called away to answer questions from a solicitor, which gave me time to think.

And so many people are so impressed with the fact that Mensah is married to multiple people and her siblings are also married to multiple people, but they ignore the fact that like, this isn't like, genuine polyamory because that— we just keep like getting enforced to us that every goddamn character in this series who's in a relationship is in a polyamorous relationship, and it's never discussed. and *it's a capitalist dystopia*.

So, like literally, if we weren't just going off of the fucking— we should be having conversations to show that these people are in these relationships because *they want to* be and not because it's a capitalist dystopia and the only way you can afford anything at all is if you marry dozens of fucking people.

(from offscreen) You know, literally, there's tax benefits.

Like, you know how people literally today can't afford to own a home or raise kids unless they have two fucking adults bringing in money?

This is a capitalist dystopia! What— Like it could literally even be enforced by the capitalist corporations for tax purposes to tax you even more, that you must marry at least xyz amount of people.

But we never have any conversations about any of this shit, and Martha Wells, she just keeps doing this shit.

She did this in The Books of the Raksura, too, where supposedly they're all polyamorous, but it's only polyamorous because only the straight relationship, the cishet relationship, that's the only one that's considered real.

The other ones are merely allowed because they're not a reproductive threat. So, you can only be polyamorous in the Raksuran society— And I say “polyamorous”— Moon didn't exactly seem fucking enthusiastic. He was literally probably being fucking

coerced as as far as the goddamn book actually tells us.

Um yeah, in that, a man is meant to— who is a fucking slave. He's a sex slave. He literally exists to be the property of the fucking queen. And this is presented as cool, because keeping people as sexual property is good and they have no equal they have literally zero civil rights. Martha Wells is just doing all the shit that male writers love to do, that everybody knows is misogynistic, but she pretends it's suddenly good when she does the exact same thing, using the exact same language.

So you're literally just reading misogynistic shit, but it's being presented as something we should laugh at and cheer on.

What the fuck was I saying?

Oh yeah, the only relationship in there that's considered real is the cishet one that will produce babies. Everything else is considered fake. so it's fine.

That— but also, you're only allowed to have a same-sex relationship, because that's not a reproductive threat to the cishet relationship, which is the only one that actually fucking matters.

Um, but if, you if you wanted to actually have a genuinely polyamorous relationship because you actually like the other person and not because they're forcing you into it, and the other person happened to be, you know, not same sex, then that would be illegal because that would be a threat to the only real relationship.

It's it's so much fucking shit. Completely unexamined, completely unironic. Literally just upholding cishet relationships that are literally just exist to do to produce offspring for eugenics.

Classist racist fucking eugenics, I swear to God.

She literally upholds cishet relationships that produce children as the only fucking real relationship. Everything else is completely fucking meaningless.

Unless, you un, you know unless you do it in ~the wrong way~ and you fall in love with the wrong type of person, then that's illegal and also you're probably “psychotic” and by psychotic she means Scarily Mentally Ill, because she only cares about neurodivergent representation when it's about “quirky relatable-to-her” autistic traits like not making eye contact and forgetting to eat and things like that.

Nothing else. No other symptoms.

She doesn't care about neurodivergent people.

Any-fucking-ways.

Uh blah blah.

> I didn't know what I would do on a farm. Clean the house. That sounded way more boring than security. Maybe it would work out. That was what I was supposed to want. This was what everything had always told me I was supposed to want. Supposed to want.

Martha Wells is so fucking racist that she has literally decided that, um, to be ~clever~, she needs to say that ~actually!!! trying to free slaves is the real cruelty!!!!~

Don't you know by by freeing a slave and telling them they can do anything, you're actually just imposing your will on them and violating their bodily autonomy? Look! Murderbot thinks, "Oh, this is what I'm supposed to want."

And it's in the corporation rim! Where the FUCK would Murderbot ever be watch finding goddamn TV shows telling slaves that they should want to be free?

This is supposed to be a capitalist dystopia, you shit fucking writer.

Where the— Where the fuck is Murderbot going to be finding TV shows about how “you should free slaves and give them free will?”

What the fuck are you talking about? Are you goddamn serious?

And she expects us to take her seriously and take this seriously.

Yeah. She's literally saying that “if you if you tell slaves that they can do anything they want, you're the *real* bad guy.” You're really you're “you're the one *really* violating their bodily autonomy, more than the people who want to keep exploiting them as a slave. You should feel bad if you tell a slave, ‘you can do whatever you want. You, you're free now’.”

That's that's evil according to Martha Wells.

That's the *real* cruelty, according to Martha Wells.

And she has genuinely successfully fucking trained so many goddamn people who've read this book into believing that that is true and regurgitating that at anybody who even remotely criticizes this shit.

I dare you to fucking criticize this shit, and you can see it for yourself.

I'd have to pretend to be an augmented human.

A thing it doesn't actually have to pretend to be because that's literally what it is. It's literally just institutionally dehumanized.

> And that would be a strain.

No, it wouldn't. You are literally already, you are literally just institutionally and legally dehumanized to justify enslaving you. Martha Wells has also explicitly said this so many godamn times.

> I'd have to change, make myself do things I didn't want to do, like talk to humans like I was one of them. I'd have to leave the armor behind, but maybe I wouldn't need it anymore.

And then another fucking line break.

(from offscreen) really?

Yeah, literally. Literally.

Literally, ~Oh, by telling a slave that they're they're free and they can do anything they want, you're

making them do things they don't want to do, unlike all of the things they're forced to do when they're literally enslaved and exploited by you.~

That's that. Yeah.

“Freeing slaves,” literally, according to this goddamn book and the entire rest of the series that doubles down on this goddamn statement, “freeing slaves is the real cruelty. That means you're re that you're the one who's really forcing them to do things they don't want to do.”

Um because, you know, um “being enslaved? that's that's that's really them having bodily autonomy!”

You can't make this shit up. This is just what Martha Wells is like. This is what she's been doubling down on for over two fucking decades at this point.

> Eventually things settled down and they had dinner brought in. Mensah came and talked to me some more about Preservation, what my options would be there, how I would stay with

> her until I knew what I wanted. It was pretty much what I had already figured from what Ratthi had told me. “You'd be my guardian,” I said. “Yes.” She was glad I understood. “There are so many education opportunities. You can do anything you want.” Guardian was a nicer word than owner.

And again, like yes, that's subjectively correct. It's just too— we only have one page left. I'll continue. I'll continue.

> Guardian was a nicer word than owner.
> I waited until the middle of the off shift when they were all either asleep or deep in their own feeds working on their analysis of the assessment materials.

They're still doing their fucking work, which we still don't know what it is. We still literally have no goddamn clue why they came here and why they decided it was worth becoming slave owners for!

> I got up from the couch and went down the corridor and slipped out the door. I used the transport pod and got back to the lobby, then left the hotel. I had the map I had downloaded earlier, so I knew how to get off the ring and down toward the lower port work zones. (voice cracking up)

I'm laughing at the ending that I can already see on the other page, and it's just so goddamn out of place and just bad.

It's It's trying so hard, but not hard enough to actually write a story that makes sense for it.

You'll see.

Uh,

> I had the map I had downloaded earlier, so I knew how to get off the ring and down toward the lower port work zones. I was wearing a survey team uniform and,

(laughing)

> and passing as an augmented human, so nobody stopped me or looked twice at me. At the edge of the work zone, I went through into the work the dock workers barracks, then into the equipment storage. Besides tools, the human workers had storage cubbies there. I broke into a human's personal possessions locker and stole work boots. a protective jacket and an Envirro mask and attachments.

And if you're wondering if these are ever going to come back up, nope.

(from offscreen, laughing) What if the old enemy fucking post?

What if the old enemy in the eighth book is this random person that Murderbots stole their uniform that they're definitely going to have to pay out of pocket?

Again, just all the classism. Martha Wells hates poor people so fucking much. Um, Murderbot could have stolen shit from anybody at all. Uh, but it it's stole from the manual laborers who probably only have one uniform and that's probably an extremely fucking expensive uniform that they have to work for years at the company before they can even buy it.

Uh, yeah, we don't we don't question that at all. There's no commentary here.

Uh, Murderbot could have stolen from anybody, but it steals from a poor person, a manual laborer. Yep. That's that's great great solidarity there, Martha Wells.

(from offscreen) Even though it could have broken into any random rich person or corporate person's office and stolen—

This is this is the stupid sci-fi future. It can get a fake digital goddamn uh credit card and just download all the money!

Anyways, um

> I took a knapsack from another another locker, rolled up the jacket with the survey logo and tucked it into the bag. And now I looked like an augmented human traveling somewhere.

But also, but Murderbot, but, you don't know how people work, don't you?

But now you know all this shit, just so conveniently.

(sarcastically) I bet it watched this on TV, too.

> I walked out of the work zones and down the big central court.

(laughing) I'm laughing at this fucking ending. It's so terrible. It's approaching. It's Yeah, we're on, we're in the last page now. Works.

So, it's so fucking— It's I don't know what's the it the word I'm looking for is not contrived or halfassed. It's

not even pretentious. I don't know. We'll see when we get there. What are you kitties doing? Uh,

> I walked out of the work zones and down the big central corridor into the work—

(almost crying with laughter)

> works the ports embarcation zone. Just one of hundreds of travelers headed for the ship ring. I checked the schedule feeds and found that one of the ships getting ready to launch was a bot driven cargo transport. I plugged into its access from the from the station side lock and greeted it. It could have ignored me uh but it was bored and greeted me back and opened its feed for me. Bots that are also ships don't talk in words.

Martha Wells, what does that mean? You're talking through computers. Are they not talking in text? What are they fucking using? That doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense.

What do you *mean* they don't talk in words? You're talking through computers! Even binary code is words. What do you mean they don't talk in words???

In what godamn universe is it easier for a robot to talk in— what? What? Pictures?? Emotions??? Are they Jedi????

(from offscreen) Binary in instead of fucking words!

I just said that. Yeah, binary is words.

What? What! It doesn't make sense. She's just trying to be fucking pretentious and, and this is just further dehumanization! Um, because you know the all of these living ships, we're not supposed to think of them as people, even though they're robots and this is supposed to be about how “robots are people too”.

Not really, though! She doesn't give a shit about any of the fuckling robots in this series, unless your name is Asshole Research Transport, which is very blatantly her favorite character she's ever written.

We're not supposed to see these people as people. So, they're nonverbal, even though that literally makes no goddamn sense, because she's ableist as well as racist and a slavery apologist and so much, just so much.

(from offscreen) What's so fucking dumb?

Bots that are also ships don't talk in words.

Aka living ships. Living ships that are people

I push

They don't talk in words.

I pushed the thought toward it that I was a happy bot servant who needed a ride to rejoin its beloved guardian and didn't want company on its long trip. I showed it how many show hours of shows and books and other media I had saved to share.

So they don't talk in words, but you're you're thinking at it in words. You're talking to it in words even though they don't talk in words.

(from offscreen) And this stereotype is so common, and this— believes this.

Yeah. And, and the other robot slave just just just accepts this for no fucking reason, because—

This, this does— this isn't a person with interiority and their own thoughts and autonomy or, you know, anybody that's going to be like “that's a really fucking weird thing, but sure, I guess?”

Nope, it's just, this is just here to be a fucking contrivance and so that other people who have no reading fucking analysis can say ~oh Oh, there's such solidarity between the robots cuz they they help Murderbot without question!!!~

It's like, uh, are you ignoring all of the other slaves that are killed and the fact that we're not even supposed to see these living ships as people?

Anyways,

I showed it how many hours of shows and books and other media I had saved to share. Cargo transport bots also watch the entertainment feed, it turns out.

Another joke. Another joke.

> I don't know what I want. I said that at some point, I think. But it isn't that. It's that I don't want anyone to tell me what I want or to make decisions for me.

“Freeing slaves is bad. That's the real cruelty.”

> That's why I left you, Dr. Mensah, my favorite human. By the time you

[Almost crying with laughter] It's just so badly fucking written.

> I don't know. I don't know what I want. I said that at some point, I think. But it isn't that. It's that I don't want anyone to tell me what I want

> or to make decisions for me. That's why I left you, Dr. Mensah, my favorite human. By the time you get this, I'll be leaving the corporation rim. Out of inventory and out of sight. Murderbot and me.

That's what is the word I'm looking for to describe this shit, where she's trying to pretend, retroactively, that um other than just desperately tacking it on at the end, a desperate last minute edit.

She's so bad at fucking writing. She's literally trying to pretend with this last fucking, two tiny paragraphs that this whole time, this whole thing was fucking epistolary format, and all of this this entire fucking book we've just read—

She's trying to pretend out of nowhere that Murderbot sent the entire contents of this entire book to Mensah as like a digital fucking email.

You—No, no, that's not that's not what happened! You just made that shit up right at the very end of your fucking document and didn't edit a single fucking

thing to make that happen, because you could have made—

If, if Martha Wells were a competent writer, this could have clearly been epistolary format, you know, like the goddamn title lies to you. “The Murderbot Diaries”. This isn't a diary. This isn't a letter.

She just threw that in at the very last fucking second and didn't bother to edit the entire rest of the thing to make it true.

That's why it's a goddamn lie and it's a *hilarious* lie because it's just coming out of nowhere!

It's so abrupt. It's so jarring. It means nothing. It's just fucking absurdity. It's such fucking lazy writing and it's so it's so brazenly fucking lazy writing.

Like, she clearly doesn't give a shit. It would have been so easy for this to have been directed at Dr. Mensah the whole time, but it wasn't. It wasn't, until the literal last two goddamn sentences.

And it's hysterical how pathetically bad it is.

(from offscreen) Um, and this could have been the first draft of a really interesting story.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, much more interesting story that didn't do racism or if it was going to do racism, which it would, cuz it's Martha Wells author, it would have at least had a conclusion and a plot if anybody actually said, "You need to edit this."

Literally.

(from offscreen) Tell me when you're ready for the quote.

Oh, yeah. We got a quote. We got a quote for you guys from uh somebody who apparently knew actually knew how to write. We haven't actually read anything by her—

(from offscreen) We did! The winged cat books growing up from our heart—

Oh my god. Okay, I lied. Apparently, we read I Okay, I guess she wrote Catwings. I loved those books and apparently they don't exist anywhere, which is weird as fuck.

Uh yeah, read the quote. Just read it loudly so you show up.

(from offscreen) Commod— “Commodified fantasy takes no risks. It invents nothing but imitates and trivializes. It proceeds by depriving the old stories of their intellectual and ethical complexity, turning their truthtelling to sentimental platitude. Heroes brandish their swords, lasers, wands as mechanically as combine harvesters reaping profits. Profoundly disturbing moral choices are sanitized, made cute, made safe. The passionately conceived ideas of the great storytellers are copied, stereotyped, reduced to toys, molded in bright colored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, and interchangeable. What the commodifiers of fantasy count on and exploit is the insuperable, insufferable imagination of the reader, child or adult, which given

even these dead thing— which gives even these dead things, life, of a sort, for a while.”

Yep.

(from offscreen) Ursula K. Leguin from Tales from Earth Sea, which is like the big thing that we need to read apparently

Literally that entire quote. You can just hand me I'll even read it again.

(from offscreen) Look just fell off my keyboardd

Just that whole thing. Just zoom in on it so I can read it.

I will literally just read it again because it needs to be read again because we just read 33ish,000 words of Martha Wells's shit that this quote describes exactly.

> Commodified fantasy takes no risks. It invents nothing but imitates and trivializes.

I'll read it one line at a time and do commentary. Read the Imperial Radch. Read Ancillary Justice by Anne Leckie.

And then for the fuck of it, go watch all the Alien movies, specifically Prometheus and Covenant. It's really goddamn clear.

(from offscreen) Anyways, maybe not Covenant.

Maybe. Well, no. Just for cont—It's not It's not good. I'm not saying they're good— Covenant, that is. Ancillary justice. yes.

> It proceeds by depriving the old stories of their intellectual and ethical complexity, turning their truthtelling to sentimental platitude.

Literally. Literally. I I just cannot fucking stress enough to you. If you've read the Murderbot Diaries, go read the Imperial Radch series by Ann Leckie. That's R A D C H.

I don't know how to pronounce it, and I don't care if I mispronounce it. It's on purpose. You should not want to pronounce it correctly because they suck and they deserve to have their colonizers language bastardized.

Go read that. You can see every goddamn moment—because Martha Wells has admitted multiple times that was her direct inspiration for writing All Systems Red!

You can see every godamn thing she is fucking cherry-picking and then destroying. She did not take one godamn lesson away besides all of the things the bad guys are saying, but unironically. She does it unironically.

> Heroes brandish their swords, lasers, wands as mechanically as combine harvesters, reaping profits.

Literally, she's so fucking shit at writing. The, the, the shit, these fuckers couldn't even get themselves out of a single goddamn situation.

The bad guys had to kill themselves for them!

> Profoundly disturbing moral choices are sanitized, made cute, made safe.

Do I even need to do I even need to— do I even need to spell it out?

> Profoundly disturbing moral choices are made sanitized, made cute.

The PreservationAux team are slave owners who went solar systems out of their goddamn way to become slave owners. Tortured that fucking slave by fucking denying it medical attention supposedly *after* they've “realized” it was a person. They knew it was a person the whole time.

They, they became slave owners on purpose as fully grown, fully functional adults. They knew exactly what they were doing. And it's presented as cute and something we should immediately forgive them for, if we were ever upset with them in the first place, which were never supposed to be.

> The passionately conceived ideas of the great storytellers are copied, stereotypes, reduced to toys, molded in brightcolored plastic, advertised, sold, broken, junked, replaceable, interchangeable.

Yes, she she literally she's literally just taking everything just from the Imperial Radch alone and so many other things. She's, she's just copying so many things and, and doing it so badly. She did not— fail— She did not pass a single fucking goddamn moral test from this series.

> What the commodifiers of fantasy count on and exploit is the insuperable imagination of the reader, child or adult, which gives even these dead things life, of a sort, for a while.

Okay, it— literally, you— there's there's no descriptions of anything going on in this goddamn series, and that has not changed even from the stories that are not from Murderbot's perspective.

So, for all of the people screaming endlessly, "But Murderbots's an unreliable narrator. That's why there's no description," or just literally shitting on the entire history of the fucking written word or even spoken goddamn stories, claiming that it's impossible to do descriptions of anything and a story from first person perspective.

Okay, shit bags. There are— and now there are now four goddamn stories in this fucking universe that are neither in first person perspective nor from Murderbots's perspective.

And yet they have all of the exact same glaring godamn problems.

And you don't believe me? You don't believe me? There's four of them! Fucking stupid ass name. What the fuck? Home. Yeah. home something something niche blah fucking that shit.

It's from Mensah's perspective and yet despite being from her perspective, she still refers to all of the people she's been friends with for years by their last

name, because Martha Wells has not come up— she literally she doesn't give enough shits about these caricatures and tokenized people that she didn't even think to give them first names! None of them have first names besides Ayda Mensah.

Ratthi doesn't have a first name. Pin-Lee doesn't have a first name. None of these people have have first names, because they don't exist to be actual characters with depth and interiority. They're just tokenized to pretend that she's not a racist because “look! she put eight whole goddamn characters in a 33,000word story!”

Didn't use any of them properly and just gave them all different ethnic sounding names to pretend that she's not just another white supremacist. even though she then cheers on Apple TV for whitewashing her fucking main character and letting Apple TV turn the entire thing into reverse racism, legitimately.

Okay. So, yeah, that's the one. It's from Mensah's perspective. It's in third person p— it's in third person point of view, because she hates nonbinary people. so,

the only reason that The Murderbot Diaries is in first-person perspective is because she's a fucking coward and refused to write in third person point of view because that would require her to actually use it/its pronouns for Murderbot as outside of dialogue where the slave owners are talking about it like it's not sitting right there.

Second story, not from Murderbot's perspective and not in first person pers, perspective is, we'll just go in the closeness to this shit is Rapport, the new thing from just 120 something days ago.

Still hasn't been edited. even though they're selling it for the same price that they were selling the ebook version of this shit book when this came out, selling it for the exact same price, even though it's four times shorter and has glaring fucking typos, so that people are literally spending money on a thing that hasn't been edited, not even pretended to be edited.

Uh, then there's obsolescence, which you can read for free online. whatchamacallit. It's a free It's from a free anthology where she missed, I mean purposefully

missed the fucking memo of what it's supposed to be about. Fuck. I can't remember what the anthologyy's called. Just search Obsolescence by Martha Wells anthology. It should come up. It's like something about brighter future, brighter days, something like that.

It's a whole free thing. You can get a free PDF in Spanish and English cuz they rock. I don't remember what it's called, but I will link it in the description when I remember. I have the link saved somewhere.

Um, that's the three of them. Those are— none of— those ones are not from Murderbot's perspective, nor are they in first person perspective. s, you would think all of the problems from the rest of the fucking would magically vanish, right?

If, if we pretend that the problems in the writing here haven't been the glaring problems in her writing since she started writing literally longer ago than I think I've been alive? Probably longer than many people watching this have been alive.

The fourth one is brand fucking new. It's called Data Ghost. And Jesus Christ, it's shit. It's such shit. I will not even describe how shitty it is.

I'm going to read it to you next. We're going to be going out of order and I'm going to read it next. But—yep, that's it. Bye-bye.

We're going to be starting instead of going properly, we're going to do data g. No, we won't. I'll do them in order. Bye-bye.